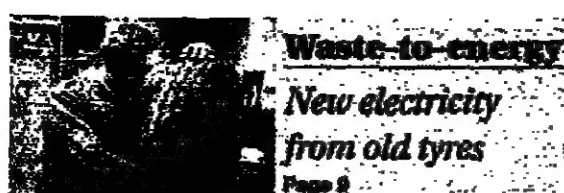
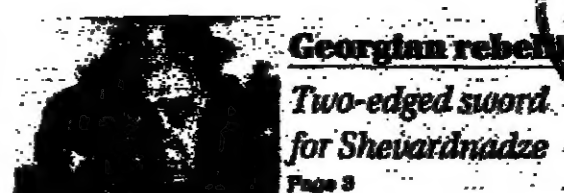




Italian industry
Performing well
in spite of scandals
Page 13



Waste-to-energy
New electricity
from old tyres
Page 8



Georgian rebellion
Two-edged sword
for Shevardnadze
Page 9



Derivatives
Strategic goals in
managing risk
Survey, Section III

FINANCIAL TIMES

Europe's Business Newspaper

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20 1993

DB523A

Taiwan seeks new talks with BAe on aircraft deal

Taiwan Aerospace Corporation is seeking a fresh start to talks with British Aerospace on their troubled and drawn out efforts to set up a joint venture to manufacture regional jets. Page 14

Strikers halt Paris flights: Striking Air France workers brought chaos to the two main Paris airports, forcing flights to be cancelled for much of the afternoon. Cancellations were likely today for some flights, said Air France. Page 14

Haiti leader ignores deadline: Lt Gen Raoul Cedras (left), Haiti's army commander, smoked and swapped jokes as he ignored demands to respect the United Nations-brokered plan allowing the country's return, despite the reimposition of an international embargo. Six US and three Canadian navy ships were offshore to enforce the embargo, and a French frigate was sailing to join them. Britain is also to send a frigate. Page 6

ICL launches EC-based computer: An advanced computer system, based on technology developed in Europe and paid for by the European Community's main information technology research programme, is launched today by ICL. Page 14

Italy tightens control on secret services: Italy's intelligence services are to be reorganised under a single authority, controlled directly by the prime minister, after mounting evidence that elements of the country's intelligence community were linked to organised crime and at least partially responsible for terrorist acts. Page 2

Israeli political prisoner freed: Israel freed its longest-held Palestinian political prisoner, beginning the process of releasing up to 12,000 Palestinians from Israeli jails. Page 4

Vauxhall enters credit card market: Vauxhall Motors, a subsidiary of General Motors, has become the first UK car manufacturer to enter the credit card market, launching a UK version of the GM card available in the US. The card will offer customers a discount of up to £2,500 (\$3,770) on a new Vauxhall vehicle. Page 8

Japan protests over nuclear waste: Tokyo protested to Moscow over Russian dumping of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan at the weekend, which has caused much anger in Japan, but Russia said the practice might continue. The US urged Russia to honour an international moratorium on dumping nuclear waste at sea. Page 5

End of an era for Lohmeyer: Tiny Rowland's reign as undisputed master of Lohmeyer ended when the international group's board announced the appointment of non-executive directors - nominated by Dieter Bock, the group's joint chief executive - for the first time in 30 years. Page 15

Gatt settlement at risk: Refusal by the US to open talks with the European Community on "clarifying" the Blair House farm trade agreement will make it hard to conclude the Uruguay Round world trade reform talks by their December 15 deadline, Mr René Steichen, EC agriculture commissioner, warned. Page 7; Poultry producers join revisionists, Page 24

Major's doubts on Ulster peace: The UK prime minister, John Major, discounted the possibility that the peace initiative between two Northern Irish nationalist leaders will lead to a breakthrough in attempts to secure peace in Northern Ireland. Major to hear new overture of peace from Ulster, Page 8

UK gifts: The December long gilt future reached a new contract high of 114.26 after the Bank of England announced there would be no gilt auction in November and dealers speculated that October's auction might be the last this year. Page 15; Lex, Page 14

Citicorp: The US's largest banking group, saw an 18 per cent rise in third-quarter after-tax earnings compared with the previous three months, and reported a better-than-expected decline in credit costs. Page 15

Kasparov keeps chess title: Garry Kasparov retained his world champion title in the London chess championship after drawing against Nigel Short in the 19th game. He has an unbeatable 12-7 score in the 24-game series, but needs a further half point to win the championship.

STOCK MARKET INDICES			
FT-SE 100	3,126.5	(-0.9)	
Yield	3.75		
FT-SE Euroshare 100	1,345.27	(-1.1)	
FT-SE All-Share	1,545.92	(-0.2)	
Nikkei	20,088.91	(-2.3)	
New York: Dow Jones	3,648.18	(+0.7)	
S&P Composite	467.95	(-0.5)	
US LUNCHTIME RATES			
Federal Funds	2.1%		
3-mo Treasury Bill	3.06%		
Long Bond	6.05%		
LONDON MONEY			
3-mo Interbank	5%	(54)	
Little long gilt future	Dec 114.26	(Dec 14)	
NORTH SEA OIL (Argonne)			
Brunt 15-day (Dec)	\$16.95	(16.92)	
Gold			
New York Comex (Dec)	\$379.5	(38.6)	
London	\$387.0	(37.3)	

STERLING			
New York: London	1.4815		
Frankfurt	1.482	(1.488)	
Paris	2.4425	(2.4375)	
Madrid	6.8275	(6.8175)	
Amsterdam	2.165	(2.1475)	
Y	158.75	(161.0)	
£ Index	79.7	(79.5)	
DOLLAR			
New York: London	1.6385		
Frankfurt	1.6395		
Paris	1.4455		
Y	107.1		
London	1.637	(1.627)	
DM	5.7825	(5.7525)	
Sfr	1.444	(1.434)	
Y	107.05	(107.45)	
£ Index	85.8	(85.3)	
Tokyo close	¥ 107.28		

Brussels targets Akzo in antitrust investigation

By Andrew Hill in Brussels and Ronald van de Krol in Amsterdam

THE EUROPEAN Commission believes Akzo, the Dutch chemicals group, has hindered an investigation into what could be a serious breach of EC competition rules.

The Commission inquiry is believed to focus on Akzo's grow-

ing dominance of the salt market, following the group's takeover of Dansk Salt of Denmark earlier this year. Akzo claims to be the world's biggest salt producer.

Brussels yesterday threatened Akzo with a daily penalty of Ecu1,000 (\$1,170) because its anti-trust investigators were refused access to the group's headquarters in Arnhem earlier this month. The threat was lifted

after Akzo allowed the Commission to enter its offices.

Akzo claims that when the EC team first visited Arnhem, it was not authorised to carry out a search. The same team was allowed to enter the offices of Akzo Chemicals at other locations in the Netherlands.

"They hadn't done their homework," said one Akzo executive yesterday. "We co-operate with

these studies because we have nothing to hide, but when they have the wrong documents we will not allow them in."

However, Brussels officials denied they needed specific authorisation. In a strongly worded statement, the Commission said it would "under no circumstances" tolerate attempts to escape such investigations, commonly known as "dawn raids".

Raids are carried out without warning when Brussels suspects an infringement of EC rules, particularly in cases involving alleged price-fixing or abuse of a company's dominant position.

Neither Akzo nor the Commission would comment on the reason for the raids, which took place on October 6 and 7, but industry sources suggested that the inquiry followed complaints

by Danish consumers and competitors in the salt market. Akzo, in addition to acquiring Dansk Salt, last month, took a majority stake in a Danish producer of food ingredients, which owns an Icelandic salt manufacturer.

Most of the 15m tonnes of salt produced by Akzo annually is intended for use in industrial electrolysis by the chemicals industry.

Flynn sets 5% jobless target for Community

Brussels package urges restraint on wages and cut in work hours

By David Goodhart in Brussels

THE EUROPEAN Commission is calling for wage restraint, a reduction in companies' welfare obligations, and tax incentives for training, as part of a radical plan to cut unemployment in the European Community from the current 10.4 per cent to 5 per cent by 2000.

The plan, spelt out yesterday by Mr Padraig Flynn, the EC social affairs commissioner, aims to combine "solidarity and competitiveness" and will form a key element of Mr Jacques Delors' white paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, due to be published next month.

Although Mr Flynn rejected wholesale labour market deregulation, he went further than before in detailing the changes required to traditional forms of labour protection and the sacrifices that will have to be made by the security employed.

"I believe we should encourage increases in hourly wages below the rate of productivity growth, not in order to reduce wages, but in order to increase the number of jobs that can be made available," Mr Flynn told a conference on employment in Europe, organised by the Commission.

He also suggested employers' non-wage social security costs be less regressive to create more jobs for the less skilled and proposed switching some of those costs from employers to general taxation.

This attempt to reduce the price of labour will be greeted with suspicion by Europe's trade unions. However, Mr Flynn has couched the changes in terms that will appeal to the left:

"Europe needs a new solidarity - between those with work and those without, and between those who earn their income from wages and from investments."

He also urged a progressive reduction in average hours of work per employee and for "minimising the financial incentives for longer hours among the better paid". Tinkering with the old system would no longer suffice and "re-regulation" was required to take account of labour market changes, such as the increase in part-time and temporary work. He proposed, for example, the restructuring of government income support schemes to be combined with income from work.

"Our labour markets suffer from a series of discontinuities and distortions. They have grown up over the years, with template overlaying template, in taxation, in social protection, in regulation," he said.

But the answer, he concluded, was not to "simply abolish regulation". Otherwise the whole burden of change would be borne by the weakest and employee motivation would suffer.

Mrs Miel Smets, the Belgian labour minister, said the EC should not be made a scapegoat for unemployment and claimed that without its efforts the position would be worse. She proposed an EC-wide energy tax to promote employment and more career breaks to create jobs.

In the UK, Lord Hensley, parliamentary undersecretary of state, said declining competitiveness was at the root of Europe's jobs problem. Social protection would not be abandoned but greater flexibility was needed, he added.

Philip Morris profits cut by 25% in cigarette price war

By Richard Tomkins in New York

THE cigarette price war raging in the US took its toll on Philip Morris, the world's biggest cigarette manufacturer, yesterday by wiping 25 per cent of the company's third-quarter profits.

Net earnings were \$971m compared with \$1,298m in the same quarter last year. The figures were worse than the market had feared and the share price fell 3 1/4% to \$52 1/4.

Philip Morris triggered the price war in April by cutting 20 per cent off the price of its premium brands - notably Marlboro, its top-selling product, but also Benson & Hedges, Merit, Parliament and Virginia Slims.

The company was responding to the inroads into its market share being made by low-price

cigarettes, taken to be a further sign of the trend for consumers to switch to cheaper products.

The price cuts produced a fall of 16 per cent in Philip Morris's US tobacco revenues in the third quarter, causing a 53 per cent slump in the division's operating profits to \$951m.

But the company took consolation from a 1.7 percentage point increase in its share of the US cigarette market to 25.7 per cent. Most of the rest of the group performed well. The international tobacco business showed a 15 per cent increase in operating profits to \$678m. North American food increased operating profits by 10 per cent to \$588m, and the Miller Brewing Company increased operating profits by 71 per cent to \$94m.

International foods, however, saw a 12 per cent fall in operating

profits to \$243m because of adverse currency movements and exceptional gains from asset sales the previous year.

Group turnover for the quarter was up 1.4 per cent at \$15.2bn, while net earnings per share were down 23 per cent at \$1.11.

Mr Michael Miles, chairman and chief executive, said: "Our overall results indicate that our business strategies are proving effective in very difficult economic and competitive circumstances."

The pressure on US cigarette prices seems likely to last and analysts are gloomy about the prospects of a recovery from this part of the group's operations.

But Ms Leigh Fersl, of Prudential Securities, said: "If they can stop the decline in US cigarette profits, there is growth in the rest of the business."



Benazir Bhutto, who was sworn in as Pakistani prime minister yesterday, confers with former caretaker prime minister Balakh Sher Mazari. Bhutto reform pledge, Page 4; Editorial Comment, Page 13

Major hints at tax increases

By Philip Stephens and Peter Marsh in London

MR JOHN MAJOR, the UK prime minister, yesterday shrugged off concern that the economic recovery in Britain may be faltering and reinforced expectations at Westminster of higher taxes in next month's Budget.

Amid angry exchanges in the House of Commons with Mr John Smith, the opposition Labour party leader, Mr Major also hinted that the Treasury will seek to raise part of the additional revenue it needs by closing so-called tax loopholes.

Mr Major's upbeat assessment that the economic recovery will be sustained followed a warning to the cabinet from Mr Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer, that the government's £50bn (\$75bn) borrowing requirement must be reduced.

But fears that recession elsewhere in Europe and weakening consumer confidence could abort the upturn prompted renewed warnings from prominent Con-

servative backbench MPs about the risks of large tax increases.

While a majority of Tory MPs appear resigned to an overall rise in tax of £2bn or £3bn, Mr Clarke was told at an 80-strong meeting last night of the party's backbench finance committee to rule out higher income taxes.

Mr John Townend, the chairman of the committee, said afterwards the general view was that Mr Clarke should do nothing to prejudice the economic recovery.

That caution was reinforced by

a recommendation from the Treasury's panel of outside economic advisers that Mr Clarke should opt for only a "modest" tightening of fiscal policy next year. The advisers said this should be accompanied by an early cut in interest rates and by a medium-term package of spending and tax measures to reduce borrowing. After an hour-long cabinet discussion of the economic outlook,

Continued on Page 14
Lex, Page 14

Bundesbank warns of threat from growth in derivatives

By David Waller in Frankfurt

THE BUNDESBANK today warns that the growth of derivatives markets could endanger the stability of the world financial system.

In its monthly report, the German central bank argues that the increase in the use of options, futures and other complex derivative instruments has led to an interlinking of the world's financial markets that makes them more "vulnerable to crisis".

The bank's concerns echo fears voiced last year by other leading regulators, including Mr Gerald Corrigan, then president of the New York Federal Reserve Board. However, recent reports, including one by the Bank of England, have adopted a more conciliatory tone.

Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is based on underlying assets, such as a currency, interest rate or share price. The Bundesbank calculates such transactions for German banks alone totalled DM6,116bn (\$3,775.30) in mid-1993, which is the equivalent of 90 per cent of the balance sheets of the entire German banking sector.

The notional amount of futures contracts traded on the world's exchanges every year has reached \$140,000bn, while the notional outstanding amount of swaps (contracts entered directly between banks) is about \$4,500bn.

In today's report the Bundesbank recognises the positive

Continued on Page 14
Corrigan for Goldman, Page 15
Survey, Section III

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NEWS: EUROPE

Bonn urged to reform jobs market

By David Waller in Frankfurt

THE chief economist of Germany's second biggest bank has called for a removal of the obstacles burdening the German labour market.

Mr Klaus Friedrich, chief economist at Dresdner Bank, who was speaking in Frankfurt on Monday night, said the labour market in Germany was so encrusted with inflexibilities that it functioned as if it were not a market at all.

He dismissed the tendency of German companies to put workers on to "short-time" whereby employees receive a government-subsidised wage even though they are no longer working - as "macro-economic nonsense".

He reserved the same judgment for any deal between unions and employers which provided job guarantees in return for low wage increases. The powerful IG Metall union has suggested a moratorium on jobs in return for moderate wage claims.

"The only thing that matters is to have healthy functioning companies," Mr Friedrich said. "That means better deployment of capital, workers and management."

Such views, while undoubt-

edly shared by many senior German executives, are rarely voiced by consensus-minded members of the German financial and industrial establishment. They hint at pressures for Germany's "social-market" economy to become less social and more market-oriented.

Mr Friedrich, whose forthright style reflects many years working as an economist in the US before returning to take up his position at the Dresdner Bank last year, praised the measures contained in economics minister Mr Günter Rexrodt's recently published paper on "Securing the Future of Germany's Economic Base", which calls for privatisation and increased labour market flexibility as a cure for Germany's economic woes.

"The Rexrodt paper has its head and its heart in the right place," said Mr Friedrich. "But the question is, does it have the muscle? Can it be implemented in practice?"

Mr Friedrich said it was obvious what had to be done in economic terms. The difficulties in implementing deregulation lay in the political arena, he said. Radical measures would be especially difficult to implement in 1994, an election year in Germany.

EC will boost aid to east Germany

By David Marsh and Stewart Dalby

THE European Community is likely at least to double its aid to east Germany next year from the current annual figure of Ecu1bn (£770m) to try to narrow the region's economic gap with the rest of the EC.

Mr Bruce Millan, commissioner for regional policy, said in London yesterday that east Germany was due to receive a "very considerable" increase in structural fund payments next year, but did not give a figure.

The payments would rise as eastern Germany was brought fully into the mechanism for channeling money to regions with gross domestic product per head of less than 75 per cent of the EC average.

In parts of east Germany, the figure was only 30-40 per cent, Mr Millan said. "The scale of problems is unbelievable."

His comments reflect a desire by the Commission to show that the EC is taking east Germany's structural problems seriously.

Anti-EC feeling in Germany seems partly to reflect the belief that the Community is leaving west Germany to shoulder the burden alone, a view put last month by Mr Jürgen Sarrazin, chief executive of Dresdner Bank.

Separately, Mr Millan held out the hope of EC cash for British local authorities seeking funds for tourism and urban regeneration projects in southern England.

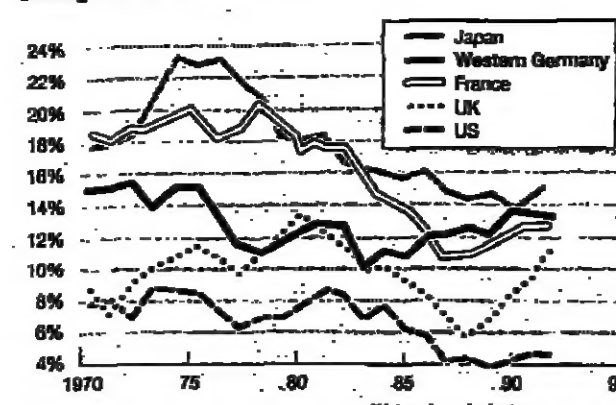
He said criteria on structural funding for areas in industrial decline had been widened to include those suffering from problems in non-traditional industries.

In a map submitted by the UK government, London and south coast towns like Brighton are included for the first time among applicants for structural aid to Britain which could amount to E1bn a year.

These southern areas often have urban problems and fading tourism industries.

Private savings ratios*

Leading industrial nations



Source: Bundesbank

Ownership of consumer durables

% of households

	Western Germany	Eastern Germany
1992		1993
Car	27	73
Telephone	14	91
Television	37	95
Camera	42	80
Refrigerator	52	74
Freezer	3	53
Fridge/freezer	27	13
Dishwasher	0	38
Washing machine	34	88

Source: Bundesbank

Household income

Western Germany

Disposable income

DM bn

2000

1600

1200

800

400

0

1975 80 85 90

Total housing, consumer durables and money assets net of interest commitments

Source: Bundesbank

Savings

DM bn

240

200

160

120

80

40

0

1975 80 85 90

Total housing, consumer durables and money assets net of interest commitments

Source: Bundesbank

Property*

DM bn

10000

8000

6000

4000

2000

0

1975 80 85 90

Total housing, consumer durables and money assets net of interest commitments

Source: Bundesbank

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rome tightens up on intelligence services

By Robert Graham in Rome

ITALY'S intelligence services are to be reorganised under a single authority, controlled directly by the prime minister. This was the outcome of a special meeting called on Monday evening by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of the senior ministers, defence chiefs and heads of the intelligence services. The meeting had been prompted by mounting evidence that elements of Italy's intelligence community were linked to organised crime and had been behind acts of terrorism.

Legislation outlining the new authority is expected to be submitted to parliament in the form of a decree by the end of the month. The two principal existing agencies - Sismi (domestic intelligence) and Sismi (military intelligence) - will disappear. They will be replaced by two revamped organisations whose responsibilities will be split between domestic and foreign intelligence activities.

Hungary targets 1956 crimes

Hungary, after several fruitless attempts, is to endeavour again to bring officials of the former communist regime to justice after parliament yesterday opened the way for war crimes trials, writes Nicholas Denton in Budapest. Prosecutions will centre on torture, mass shootings and other "inhuman" means used to suppress the 1956 revolution. That uprising against Soviet occupation and communist rule left 2,500 dead and many more injured. Few cases are likely to go before the courts and legal experts expect sentences to be light, even suspended. Some veterans of 1956 even argue for an amnesty, after justice is done.

Italy's 10-day protest begins

A nationwide strike by Italian transport workers yesterday has aided the start of 10 days of serious labour protests by the country's air, maritime and rail workers, writes Robert Graham in Rome. The protests will culminate in a four-hour general strike scheduled for October 28.

Like the strike called by the three main trade union confederations, the protests in the transport sector are directed against the government's 1994 austerity budget and the growing threat of unemployment. Transport workers are also angry about planned new regulations in the sector and cuts in investment. Union officials said port workers would strike today and tomorrow.

Airlines push EC on services

Five leading European airlines yesterday pressed the European Commission to ban ground-handling monopolies at airports throughout the EC, writes Paul Betts, Aerospace Correspondent. Senior directors of British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa of Germany, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Scandinavian Airlines System told Mr Karel van Miert, the EC competition commissioner, and other officials in Brussels that ground-handling charges at monopoly airports were almost a third higher than those at airports where airlines are free to provide their own services or choose other suppliers. They have already filed formal complaints with the EC.

Spanish general assassinated

Two gunmen killed a Spanish air force general and seriously wounded his chauffeur as they drove through a central Madrid shopping district yesterday, police said. AP reports from Madrid. The gunmen, believed to belong to the Basque separatist group Eta, fled the scene in a car they later blew up. Police identified the murdered officer as General Dionisio Herrero Albizana, 63, who was on the staff of the air force's health department.

Danish unions alter course

Tradition and values in the Danish trade union movement are undergoing radical change, according to a membership study published by the Confederation of Danish Trade Unions, writes Hilary Barnes in Copenhagen. Some 77 per cent of trade unionists attach more importance to having an interesting job and a good working environment (77 per cent) than to high wages (63 per cent). Strikes and labour conflict are supported by only 8 per cent of the 3,390 members in the survey. The vast majority believed labour problems should be resolved through negotiation.

Judge overrules decision to shelve inquiry into PDS finances

Probe of Italian party to go ahead

By Robert Graham in Rome

THE Milan judiciary has decided to proceed with investigations into alleged illicit financing of the former communist party of the Democratic Left (PDS).

The decisions follow a serious split in the ranks of Milan magistrates over whether or not to shelve the investigations that involve Mr Marcello Stefanini, the PDS treasurer, as well as former party official, Mr Primo Greganti.

The Milan attorney-general last week decided to discontinue the inquiries. He also took the unusual step of removing from the team of

Mr Alberto Predieri, liquidator of the Enim state industrial holding, has requested Milan magistrates to investigate 41 executives linked to companies within Enim, writes Robert Graham in Rome. The move was revealed by Mr Predieri yesterday in evidence to a parliamentary committee. He gave few details, saying the matters to be investigated related to the companies' balance sheets.

Enim was placed in voluntary liquidation in July 1992 with outstanding debts of L18,000bn (\$11bn). The rescue operation has already cost the Treasury some L10,000bn and the eventual cost is likely to be close to L18,000bn.

Magistrates the one person who had dissented and who was responsible for implicating Mr Stefanini, a senator, in August.

However, his decision on the case had to be approved by a judge of first instance who yesterday ruled that further inquiries were necessary before the case could be closed.

This is the first time during the country's corruption scandals that genuine doubt has been sown about the involvement of top officials receiving

and organising illicit contributions. The PDS has consistently denied the party was involved in illegal practices, and the most it has conceded is failing to declare to the tax authorities the full amount received on a property transaction. Where individuals have been accused of corruption, the party has always said this was an individual matter.

However, at least three businessmen have claimed they paid first Communist party and then PDS officials on behalf of the party. The PDS controlled co-operative movement is also under investigation for helping to provide under-the-counter financing.

Queen jeered as Cypriots recall two bitter episodes

By Michael Holman

POLICE in Nicosia yesterday sprayed tear-gas at schoolchildren demonstrating against a controversial visit to Cyprus by Queen Elizabeth.

The Queen's visit, planned as part of the Commonwealth Conference which opens tomorrow has revived bitter memories of two critical periods in the island's history - the struggle for independence from Britain and the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974, which has left it divided.

The Queen, in Nicosia to receive the key of the city, was greeted by jeering Greek Cypriots who yelled: "We don't

want you here." Earlier, police had used tear gas to disperse dozens of schoolchildren to clear the road for the Queen.

At the ceremony, the mayor of Nicosia, Mr Lellos Demetriades, told the Queen: "The city has the unenviable title of the last divided capital in Europe." Outside, angry demonstrators recalled the island's guerrilla war for independence from Britain in the 1950s when EOKA guerrillas fought for unity between Cyprus and Greece.

In 1955, Britain hanged nine men accused of guerrilla activity. The Queen had turned down pleas for mercy.

Many Cypriots also resent Britain's role during the

events of 1974, when Greek Cypriots still hoping for union with Greece, staged a short-lived coup against the then-president Makarios.

Turkey, which ruled Cyprus for more than 300 years, responded by invading the north of the island, saying it had to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority.

As Greek-Cypriots jeered the Queen during her visit to Nicosia she was able to chat amicably with peacekeepers from her country's former Falklands conflict adversary Argentina. Reuter reports from Nicosia. The Argentinians later stood firmly to attention as a British military band played "God save the Queen".

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If only everything in life was as reliable as the FT Germany Survey.

Gone are the days when the German economy could make the same claims as its motor industry.

Unification, cutbacks, looming elections and racial tension now point to a rather unpredictable future.

The Financial Times Survey on Germany will be published next Monday. It will look at political and social upheaval, and how this changing country plans to retain its position as Europe's economic leader.

FT Germany Survey.

FT. Because business is never black and white.

Handwritten signature: "M. H. H."

Hungry Russia watches Georgia carve itself up

John Lloyd and Steve LeVine report from the threatened capital

A COUP against the elected president brought him to power; now that president's forces threaten to deprive him of office. Mr Eduard Shevardnadze has had a traumatic 18 months as Georgia's head of state. Today he sits, amid the ruin of all his hopes, in the building from which Mr Zviad Gamsakhurdia was forced in January 1992.

As the "Zviadists" advance toward Tbilisi, Mr Shevardnadze turns in desperation to Russia, begging to be let in to the Confederation of Independent States, in which he saw "no future" last year. Russia is reasserting its hegemony over many of the former Soviet republics, and especially his: a Russia which is putting its empire together again, in the words of veteran commentator Mr Levon Khachaturian.

Mr Shevardnadze told Georgian politicians and intellectuals on Monday: "We will not be able to live if we cannot settle matters with Russia." He encouraged the view that he was Georgia's last hope after a coalition of paramilitary and political forces violently ousted Mr Gamsakhurdia. Now, after becoming one of the most famous statesmen of the late 20th century as Soviet foreign minister, he has little to show for his return to the state where he was once Communist party leader.

RUSSIA'S defence minister, Mr Pavel Grachev, said yesterday his country could not help in Georgia with military action, as this could be interpreted as interfering in the internal affairs of another country, Reuters reports. But Mr Grachev, on a visit to Finland, said Russian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian troops could go to Tbilisi at the request of Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, to secure supplies of food and medicine into the country. Rebels backing ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia have made strong gains in western Georgia in recent days, threatening supplies to the capital.

"Georgia is an independent state with which Russia does not have any agreement on mutual military co-operation. Georgia is not a CIS country and is not thus part of collective security arrangements," Mr Grachev said. His comments followed a late-night appeal for military help by Mr Shevardnadze.

Defending, in an interview last week, his decision to take Georgia into the CIS, he said, "The CIS is not a powerful union, so we don't have to sacrifice much of our sovereignty." Yet the very prospect of his country's call into question how much of that "sovereignty" is left. The economy is ruined. Mr Gia Nodia, who runs Tbilisi's only independent think-tank, says a basic food basket for a month costs \$20 (\$13.20); the official average salary, paid in the wildly inflating coupon, is \$2 a month. Bread lines for leaves priced at the equivalent of one fifth of a cent are massive, while wheat is sold off on

the black market to Armenian and other traders. Since Mr Gamsakhurdia's forces took the junction town of Samtredia last Sunday, food in the port of Batumi is denied the capital, and supplies are down to a week or two. Unemployment is at least 50 per cent, and the streets are crowded with looting men. In the second city of Kutaisi, now directly threatened by Mr Gamsakhurdia, the big truck plant "barely works", according to the mayor, who adds that "most enterprises work at around 30 per cent capacity at most. Anyway, who needs what they produce?" The republic of 5.5m people

is dismembered. The fall of the resort town of Sukhumi at the end of September ended the Georgian military presence in the province of Abkhazia, which has been agitating for independence for two years and has now declared itself an independent state. It is now another land which is undergoing "ethnic cleansing": Georgians, once nearly half the population, are down to a few thousand and they are trying to flee.

Refugees in Chubery, a village in the Svanetian mountains next to Abkhazia, speak of hideous atrocities. Mr Levon Amiani, who fled Sukhumi three weeks ago, said he saw the bodies of women with breasts cut off; men hanged and nailed to crosses; and - a recurring, nightmarish tale - men and women with throats cut and tongue pulled through the gash to make an "Abkhazian necktie".

The other two autonomous regions of Georgia are also wholly or partly lost to Tbilisi. South Ossetia, scene of murderous fighting three years ago, is now de facto occupied by Russian troops - and is peaceful. Abkhazia, the southern part-Moslem region, is peaceful but prefers Moscow to Tbilisi. Mr Shevardnadze has no



army. Thus, he has had to rely increasingly on the showy, violent, semi-criminal band known as the Mekhedroni, who owe their loyalty (and their pay) to Mr Jaba Josseliani, now effectively second man after the president. Imprisoned by Mr Gamsakhurdia, he has been more or less loyal to Mr Shevardnadze and his hand-like force has provided the spine of the state's military arm.

Though he came in with a string of western friends, Mr Shevardnadze has had nothing from the west but condescending words. "He addressed many love letters to them," says Mr Khachaturian in his waspish

way, "but it was in the end platonic." Even Mr Tedo Japaridze, his national security adviser, concedes that "he raised too many hopes about the west". Mr Japaridze claims that, in a meeting with President Bill Clinton, he was told that Georgia must reconcile itself to being in the Russian sphere of influence. He also says that President Boris Yeltsin told Mr Clinton at the Group of Seven meeting in Tokyo that if Russia were to leave the Caucasus, "they would murder each other". It is widely believed that Russians have been helping the murdering, by providing arms to the Abkhazian sep-

ararists and at least allowing in guerrilla forces from the Russian northern Caucasus. Mr Shevardnadze believes that Mr Yeltsin did not sanction this and that he represents the "progressive Russia" with which Georgia can live; others believe all the Russians are the same, and they want Georgia back.

No-one pushes these points harder than Mr Gamsakhurdia. Interviewed at the weekend in his headquarters city of Zugdidi, the former president, soft-spoken and only occasionally portraying the immense paranoia of former years, inveighed against the "criminal bands" of Mr Shevardnadze and promised to rid Georgia of them. His prime minister in exile, Mr Pesarion Gugushvili, said: "Everything we said about Shevardnadze has proven to be true. He has ruined his country and is delivering it to the Russians."

Georgia was as pleasant a place as could be found in the Soviet Union's last years, its towns relatively gracious, its climate warm, its people notoriously hospitable. Now it is grim, squalid, nervy, riven with conflict and patrolled by unpredictable thugs with automatics who answer to unknown authorities or none. Russia may in the end save the republic. Georgia's wild spree of independence is coming to an end.

Russian parties warned to co-operate

By Layla Boulton in Moscow

A SENIOR official in President Boris Yeltsin's administration yesterday warned Russia's pro-reform parties they should co-operate over the December 12 elections or be denounced as being unwilling to do so "for the good of Russia".

Mr Vyacheslav Volkov, deputy head of the president's administration, said Russia's Choice, set up at the weekend by supporters of Mr Yeltsin and a number of anti-Communist parties, would convene leaders of all similar groups two weeks before the elections. Politicians who rejected an agreement "not to get in each other's way and not shoot arrows at each other" would be publicly denounced.

This ultimatum will further fuel discontent about heavy-handedness and bullying from the president's supporters. Mr Konstantin Borovoi, head of the Liberal Economic Freedom party, who has refused to join Russia's Choice, even though he shares its economic platform, rejected "co-operation proposed in the form of blackmail... if they continue this way we will boycott the elections."

Sarajevo flame dies under Serb rain of death

By Laura Silber in Sarajevo

PIERCE artillery bombardments and the staccato of explosives has reminded the inhabitants of Sarajevo that in spite of a two-month lull and the push for a settlement in Geneva, Serb besiegers can wreak havoc on their lives at any time.

Using 152mm artillery, the biggest in their arsenal, Serb fighters have again been pounding the city from their positions on the heights.

This latest onslaught mocks any attempt to maintain a semblance of normal life in the valley below. Efforts by the UN to clear the rubble-strewn streets, restore power, water and telephone lines or repair the tram lines in the devastated city appear utterly absurd, given the Serbs' ability to strike at any moment.

The UN's "clean city" operation has so far done little more than provide an extra role for its 5,000 soldiers encamped there.

Bombarding the city with artillery and mortars as well as targeting civilian areas with anti-aircraft guns, Serb chiefs, bolstered by their Croat counterparts and western indifference, are killing whatever spirit remains in the Bosnian capital.

Despite brave efforts to maintain a core of tolerance, many people fear they have lost the battle to preserve the centuries-old mixed ethnic identity of Sarajevo.

As winter descends from the encircling mountains, people are desperate to abandon the city they all vowed to save.

Exhausted, "Sarajlija", the Serbo-Croat word for the city's inhabitants, no longer debate the future shape of their country. While they dismiss as "unfair" the Geneva plan to split Bosnia into three, few hold out hope of a better agreement. They criticise their government sharply for failing either to obtain weapons or surrender.

An overwhelming majority of citizens simply want the guns to fall silent. They spend their time devising ways to

survive until somehow they can get out of Sarajevo.

As they enter their second winter of war, the fear of bombardment is mingled with a dread of cold and disease.

In the anxiety to tap into the city's barely functioning natural gas system, Sarajevo homes have become fire hazards, say UN officials. When Serb besiegers allow supplies through, city dwellers rig up a tangle of rubber garden hoses to channel in small amounts of natural gas.

Epidemics pose another threat. Local entrepreneurs have formed a company to exterminate the rats which infest the city. There is also a fear of a breakdown in law and order. Gangsters have been snatching UN vehicles.

While most people speak of an intense desire to leave instead of struggling through another winter, few have real hope of getting out. Even if the Moslem-led Bosnian government gives permission, Serb leaders have raised objections with the UN over "violations" of the airport agreement which only allows transport of humanitarian aid.

The spirit of Sarajevo still persists. Even after 16 months of war, vestiges of a cosmopolitan life have endured, distinguishing it from other cities in Bosnia under the control of Serb and Croat regimes.

Performing artists and writers have worked to maintain cultural life, organising art exhibits, plays, concerts, and fashion shows, including one with materials made entirely of reinforced window plastic provided by the UN refugee relief agency.

But this spirit of resistance is weak and no match for the Serbian guns. Even those most dedicated to its preservation say there is little chance of life in the city in the future. A combination of anger at their Serb adversaries and the incompetence of the west have weakened their will.

With their bombs, Serb leaders appear ready to stop at nothing until the Moslems endorse a peace plan which formally puts an end to their Bosnian state.

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SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Mechanical Industry and Armament Sector Conversion
Brussels, 29-30 November 1993

BUSINESS MEETING

In Brussels on the 29th and 30th of November, 1993, a delegation of 25 managers of the most important Slovak groups will present the firms of the Slovak mechanical engineering and metalworking sectors, and discuss with West European companies the opportunities for cooperation.

The presentation will cover: Products, Technologies, Equipment, Know-how of the Slovak Armament Industry, Conversion Programmes, Sub-contracting Capacities, Slovak Policy for Privatisation and Restructuring of Mechanical Groups. The reputation and skill of the Slovak mechanical engineers, the cost structure and other advantages of the sector will be highlighted.

This meeting is being organised with the support of the Commission of the European Communities, PHARE Programme for Privatisation and Restructuring, and the Government of the Slovak Republic.

For registration, please contact:
Pascal ROGER, Carlos de LOS LLANOS,
Tel: 33 1 40 92 45 77 Fax: 33 1 42 53 91 16
SOFRES Conseil 16, rue Barbès F-92129 Montrouge Cedex
FRANCE

ITALY'S LEADING PRIVATE BANK



NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

New premier faces economic difficulties but seeks opposition co-operation in efforts to form stable government

Bhutto promises to continue reforms

By Farhan Bokhari
in Islamabad

MS BENAZIR Bhutto was sworn in as Pakistan's 16th prime minister yesterday, marking a political comeback almost three years after her previous government's dismissal.

Ms Bhutto, 40, polled 121 votes from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and its allies, against 72 for Mr Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), in a parliamentary vote.

At least eight members abstained during voting in the 317-seat National Assembly, the lower house of parliament. These included six members belonging to Islamic parties which consider the rule by a woman to be against their religion.

Her victory was also strengthened by the first signs of PPP gains in the Punjab -

Pakistan's largest and wealthiest province, which is crucial for the smooth functioning of the central government. The PPP's candidate in elections for the speaker of the provincial assembly polled 131 votes against the PML nominee's 107. That result, ahead of today's elections for the provincial government, finally confirmed Ms Bhutto's lead.

In her acceptance speech, Ms Bhutto sought the co-operation of the opposition in her efforts to form a stable government. She said Pakistan was under pressure on the nuclear issue, the spread of narcotics and terrorism, and faced economic difficulties. "Our government will be one of reforms. People want a change of system not a change of faces," she said.

On the future of the economic reforms begun under Mr

Moeen Qureshi, the interim prime minister, Ms Bhutto said: "We want to stimulate the economy, and if... steps have been taken which prevent that, we would review those steps." She did not give any further details.

Mr Qureshi said he was encouraged by the substantial majority Ms Bhutto appeared to have obtained.

Ms Bhutto's victory ended a year of intense political turmoil which began last November when the opposition began an anti-government campaign. That initiative was resisted by Mr Sharif through widespread arrests of PPP activists, showing virtually no room existed for a compromise between the two sides.

Mr Sharif's power was further curtailed when he turned against Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the former president, in an effort to repeal presidential powers of dismissing prime



Pakistan's newly-elected prime minister Benazir Bhutto accepts the congratulations of ex-premier Nawaz Sharif as they take their seats in the National Assembly

ministers and dissolving elected assemblies.

Although Mr Sharif's dismissal in April was followed by a return a month later in a supreme court reversal of a presidential order, the govern-

ment's restoration only intensified the political crisis. Both Mr Sharif and Mr Khan were forced out of office in July in a deal brokered by Gen Abdul Waheed, the army chief.

The final results of the Octo-

ber 6 elections have put Ms Bhutto back in power, but she is still faced with difficult odds. It is not clear how long her coalition will last, especially if Mr Sharif tries to break apart Ms Bhutto's allies.

It is also not clear that Ms Bhutto and Mr Sharif could co-operate in resolving issues such as the presidential powers for dismissal of governments, which were used against both of them.

Despite the existence of such concerns, senior PPP leaders are confident that there is no threat of any intervention by the army, which has ruled Pakistan for 24 years of its 46-year history.

INFORMATION FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND



ISSUE OF £3,500,000,000

6% TREASURY STOCK 1999

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 10 FEBRUARY AND 10 AUGUST
FOR AUCTION ON A BID PRICE BASIS ON 27 OCTOBER 1993

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS: Payment on application: with a competitive bid Price bid less £50 per £100 nominal of Stock
Balance of purchase money: £50 per £100 nominal of Stock payable on 2 December 1993

This Stock will, on issue, be an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List on 28 October 1993.

1. THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND invite bids for the above Stock.
2. The principal of and interest on the Stock will be charged on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.
3. The Stock will be repaid as per on 10 August 1999.
4. The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Stock registered at the Bank of England will be held for the account of the Central Gilt Office (CGO) Service will also be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963 and the relevant subordinate legislation. Transfers will be made on the day on which the instrument is received.
5. Interest will be payable half-yearly on 10 February and 10 August. Interest will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. Interest will accrue from Thursday, 28 October 1993 and the first interest payment will be made on 10 February 1994 at the rate of 11.4384 per £100 of the Stock.
6. The Stock may be held on the National Savings Stock Register.
7. The Stock and the interest payable thereon will be exempt from all United Kingdom taxation, present or future, so long as it is shown that the Stock is in the beneficial ownership of persons who are neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom or of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
8. Further, the interest payable on the Stock will be exempt from United Kingdom income tax, present or future, so long as it is shown that the Stock is in the beneficial ownership of persons who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom or of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
9. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, persons are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom if they are regarded as not ordinarily resident for the purposes of United Kingdom income tax.
10. Applications for exemption from United Kingdom income tax should be made in such form as may be required by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. The appropriate forms may be obtained from the Inspector of Foreign Dividends, Inland Revenue, Laywood Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 6DP.
11. These exemptions will not entitle a person to claim repayment of tax deducted from interest unless the claim is made within the time within the time limit provided for such claims under income tax law; under the provisions of the Taxes Management Act 1970, Section 43 (1), no claim will be outside this time limit if it is made within six years from the date on which the interest is payable. In addition, these exemptions will not apply so as to exclude the interest from any competition for taxation purposes of the profits of any trade or business carried on in the United Kingdom. Moreover, the allowance of the exemptions is subject to the provisions of any law, present or future, of the United Kingdom directed to preventing avoidance of taxation by persons domiciled, resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom. In particular, the interest will not be exempt from income tax where, under any such provision, it falls to be treated for the purposes of the income tax law as income of any person resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.
12. Method of Application
13. Bids may be made on either a competitive or a non-competitive basis, as set out below, and must be submitted on the application form published with the prospectus. Each application form must comprise either one competitive bid or one non-competitive bid. Gilt-edged market makers may make competitive bids by telephone to the Bank of England not later than 10.00 am on Wednesday, 27 October 1993.
14. Application forms must be sent to the Bank of England, New Issues, PO Box 444, Gloucester, GL1 1UW, or by post to the Central Gilt Office, Bank of England, Bank Buildings, 19 Old Jewry, London EC3R 8BU, not later than 10.00 am on Wednesday, 27 October 1993; or lodged by hand at any of the Branches or Agencies of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 PM on Tuesday, 26 October 1993. Bids will not be received between 10.00 am on Wednesday, 27 October 1993 and 10.00 am on Monday, 1 November 1993.
15. COMPETITIVE BIDS
16. Each competitive bid must be for one amount and at one price expressed as a multiple of 1/32nd of £1 and must be for a minimum of £200,000 nominal of Stock and for a multiple of Stock as follows:

Amount of Stock applied for	Multiple
£200,000 - £1,000,000	£100,000
£1,000,000 or greater	£1,000,000
17. Unless the applicant is a member of the CGO Service, a separate cheque representing the PAYMENT DUE ON APPLICATION, i.e. THE PRICE BID LESS £50 FOR EVERY £100 NOMINAL OF STOCK BID FOR, must accompany each competitive bid. Cheques must be drawn on a bank or office, situated within the Town Clearing area, of a settlement member of CHAPS and Town Clearing Company Limited.
18. The Bank of England reserves the right to reject any competitive bid or part of any competitive bid. Competitive bids will be ranked in descending order of price and Stock will be sold to applicants whose competitive bids are at or above the lowest price at which the Bank of England decides that any competitive bid should be accepted. APPLICANTS WHOSE COMPETITIVE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED WILL PURCHASE STOCK AT THE PRICES WHICH THEY BID: competitive bids which are accepted and which are made at prices above the lowest accepted price will be satisfied in full; competitive bids which are accepted and which are made at the lowest accepted price may be satisfied in full or in part only.
19. NON-COMPETITIVE BIDS
20. A non-competitive bid must be for not less than £1,000 nominal and not more than £500,000 nominal of Stock, and must be for a multiple of £1,000 nominal of Stock.
21. Only one non-competitive bid may be submitted for the benefit of any one person. Multiple applications or suspected multiple applications are liable to be rejected.
22. Unless the applicant is a member of the CGO Service, a separate cheque representing a PAYMENT AT THE RATE OF £50 FOR EVERY £100 NOMINAL OF STOCK APPLIED FOR must accompany each non-competitive bid; cheques must be drawn on a bank or office, situated within the Town Clearing area, of a settlement member of CHAPS and Town Clearing Company Limited.

conditions under which, this Stock is issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
19 October 1993

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND
I/We apply in accordance with the terms of the prospectus for competitive and non-competitive bids dated 19 October 1993 as follows:

FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS ONLY	
(If for Stock to be purchased at the price bid)	
Nominal amount of 6% Treasury Stock 1999 applied for:	Multiple
£200,000 or less	£100,000
£1,000,000 or greater	£1,000,000
Price bid per £100 nominal of Stock, being a multiple of 1/32nd of £1:	£ . . . 32nds
Amount of initial payment enclosed (a), being £50 for every £100 nominal of Stock applied for:	£
FOR NON-COMPETITIVE BIDS ONLY	
(If for Stock to be purchased at the non-competitive sale price as defined in the prospectus)	
Nominal amount of 6% Treasury Stock 1999 applied for, being a multiple of £1,000, with a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £500,000:	£
Amount of initial payment enclosed (a), being £50 for every £100 nominal of Stock applied for:	£

FOR CGO MEMBERS ONLY

CGO PARTICIPANT NUMBER: To No.

Name of applicant: _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS

I/We undertake to pay the balance of the purchase money when it becomes due in respect of any Stock which may be sold to me/us under this application, as provided by the prospectus.

I/We request that any letter of allotment in respect of Stock sold to me/us be sent by post at my/our risk to me/us at the address shown below.

IN THE CASE OF A NON-COMPETITIVE APPLICATION, I/We warrant that the price bid is the only one competitive application made for my/our benefit (or for the benefit of the persons on whose behalf I/we are applying).

IN THE CASE OF AN APPLICATION BY A MEMBER OF THE CGO SERVICE WHO HAS COMPLETED SECTION C, we request that my/our Stock allocated to us be credited direct to our account at the Central Gilt Office.

We hereby irrevocably undertake to accept such Stock by member-to-member delivery through the Central Gilt Office Service from the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, Number 2 Account (Participant number 118) by the deadline for such deliveries on 28 October 1993, and we agree that the consideration to be input in respect of such delivery shall be the amount payable by us on the sale of such Stock in accordance with the terms of the prospectus.

SIGNATURE(S), _____

Date, _____, of, or on behalf of, applicant

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

MEMBERS: _____

FORENAMES: _____

SURNAME: _____

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ COUNTY: _____ POSTCODE: _____

(a) A separate cheque must accompany each application. Cheques should be made payable to "Bank of England" and crossed "New Issues".

In respect of competitive bids, cheques must be drawn on a bank or office, situated within the Town Clearing area, of a settlement member of CHAPS and Town Clearing Company Limited. In respect of non-competitive bids, cheques must be drawn on a bank or office, situated within the Town Clearing area, of a settlement member of CHAPS and Town Clearing Company Limited.

(b) The procedure for any refund, or further amount payable, is set out in the prospectus.

APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE SENT TO THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES, PO BOX 444, GLOUCESTER, GL1 1UW, TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1993; OR LODGED BY HAND AT THE CENTRAL GILT OFFICE, BANK OF ENGLAND, BANK BUILDINGS, 19 OLD JEWRY, LONDON EC3R 8BU, NOT LATER THAN 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1993; OR LODGED BY HAND AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OR AGENCIES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 1993.

Kashmir shrine siege talks collapse

By Stefan Wagstyl in Srinagar and Shiraz Sidhra in New Delhi

VIOLENCE erupted yesterday on the streets of Srinagar, capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, after talks on ending the siege of the city's holiest shrine collapsed.

At least 40 people were injured as security forces used teargas and batons to disperse hundreds of demonstrators marching in support of militants who have taken control of the shrine and are surrounded by troops.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has expelled one Indian diplomat and three staff at the Indian consulate in Karachi for "indulging in espionage and other activities incompatible with their official status".

The expulsions were in response to India's demand that four Pakistani diplomats leave New Delhi on Monday, after India had charged Pakistan with a "direct" involvement in a conspiracy to damage the holy shrine in Srinagar.

Trading reopens after scandal

Indian brokers returned to the ring in Bombay and other bourses yesterday, ending week-long disruption after a Bombay court resolved the problem of scandal-linked shares seized by tax authorities. R C Murthy reports from Bombay.

Under an accord, thousands of shares worth \$80m (£52.9m) will be released. If holders can show the shares were bought legitimately, an ownership certificate will be issued. Other shares will be confiscated.

Israel starts to free Palestinians

By Julian Ozzanne in Jerusalem

ISRAELI, in a gesture of goodwill, freed its longest-held Palestinian political prisoner yesterday, beginning the process of releasing thousands of Palestinians serving time in Israeli jails.

The release of up to 12,000 Palestinian prisoners is considered by Palestinian peace negotiators to be the single most important confidence-building measure between the two sides, who resume talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba today. Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's premier, has said the numbers, timing and conditions for releasing prisoners must be negotiated properly in the Taba talks.

Israeli officials said the release of Mr Salim Zrei, a commander in the Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation held by Israel for 23 years, was intended as a reward to the PLO for renouncing violence under the framework peace accord.

His release comes on the eve of the arrival in Israel of Mr Dennis Ross, US co-ordinator for Middle East peace talks, who is touring the region ahead of a visit early next month by Mr Warren Christopher, US secretary of state.

Palestinian officials have

US pulls out crack unit in Somalia

By George Graham in Washington

THE US is to withdraw its detachment of Army Rangers from Somalia, reflecting its shift away from a policy of aggressively pursuing General Mohammed Farah Aided, the Somali clan leader.

President Bill Clinton said the move did not mean the US was abandoning the search for Gen Aided, but that the Rangers were no longer needed in Mogadishu now that a force of 3,600 Marines was positioned offshore.

"It means that right now we are engaging in a political process to see how we can resolve our mission in Somalia and to do all the things the United Nations was ordered to do," Mr Clinton said.

US officials denied that the withdrawal of the Rangers, whose principal role during their stay in Somalia has been to carry out raids aimed at capturing Gen Aided or his lieutenants, was part of a deal struck with the Somali leader to obtain the release last week of a US helicopter pilot shot down and held prisoner by his forces.

Since the US abandoned its policy of aggressively chasing the general, the US combat forces in Somalia have been largely confined to barracks.

The White House described the removal of the 600 Rangers, who are trained in special operations such as "snatch" missions, as a "rotation of forces".

Mr Peter Tarnoff, the under-secretary for policy at the State Department, told members of Congress that the primary mission of the Marine amphibious forces deployed off the coast of Mogadishu was to protect US troops in Somalia.

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Palestinian officials have

مكتبة القدس

Keating pulls off Aborigine land rights deal

Compromise package satisfies most farmers, mining interests and Aborigines, writes Nikki Tait

PAUL Keating, the Australian prime minister, has not enjoyed too many political successes in recent months. But yesterday he was finally able to declare that the issue of Aborigine land rights, which has provoked a storm of controversy in the mining and farming sectors, was a big step closer to resolution.

A compromise package, which clears the way for legislation later this year, was carved out in a long cabinet meeting on Monday night. As the details became clearer during the day, cautious support from many of the interested parties - including the mining and farming lobbies - began to emerge.

All this was the result of some hairy, last-minute bargaining. On Monday afternoon, for example, Mr Keating told parliament that land which was held under pastoral leases could be subject to native title claims - a statement which reversed an earlier government commitment to farmers.

Yet by the time the cabinet meeting broke up in the small hours of Tuesday morning, this concession to the Aborigine contingent had been dropped.

Instead, Aboriginal representatives agreed to an alternative proposal - that they be allowed to convert their own pastoral leases into native title, thus giving them permanent security on such land.

For the past 16 months, it has been touch-and-go whether the government could broker a solution to a High Court decision which makes land rights legislation imperative. This ruling was handed down in June 1992, when the court determined that the Meriam people in the Torres Strait were holders of native title on about nine square kilometres of land. The judgment became known as the "Mabo" decision, after Eddie Mabo, leader of the Meriam people who had begun the court action a decade earlier.

The land involved in Mabo may have been modest, but the implications were huge. Australian law had always operated on the assumption that the land was unoccupied before European settlement - the principle of "terra nullius". The High Court, by contrast, ruled that native title claims could be successful where the indigenous people had maintained a close connection with the land, although it also said that land titles acquired under accepted law since European settlement should not be disturbed.

To complicate matters further, the Mabo decision determined that states and territories could extinguish native title - but only in accordance with the country's constitution and laws, notably the 1975 Racial Discrimination Act. In short, compensation could be required. Unfortunately, the High Court

ruling was made in the narrow context of one claim, and gave little guidance on the practical application of these principles. From the outset, the federal government was forced to tread a fine line between meeting Aboriginal demands, now backed up by the Mabo ruling, and delivering a degree of reassurance to existing land users, such as the mining companies and farmers, so that economic stability was not threatened. To make the task harder, it also had to juggle a delicate relationship with Australia's states and territories, traditionally responsible for land management.

The final package, as agreed by the cabinet this week, is complex. Essentially, it will allow indigenous people to pursue claims for native title either through the federal court or through state jurisdiction. Decisions on the economic use of land, however, will remain the domain of the states, provided they comply with the "spirit and principles" of the Commonwealth legislation.

All existing leases can be "validated", and native title will then be extinguished for all categories other than mining leases. Governments will pick up any compensation costs resulting from validation of existing grants and "there will be further discussions with states and territories on cost-sharing arrangements

between the Commonwealth and complying states".

Where land is subject to native title, the indigenous holders will not have a veto on development, but they will have a "right to negotiation". Mr Keating's statement suggested that the time limits for negotiation would be set at four months in the case of exploration licences, and six months for mining leases. There would also be four- and six-month arbitration periods for the two respective categories.

Will the package fly? On the political front, the Australian Democrats, one of the two minority parties whose parliamentary support is essential, welcomed the package. State premiers in New South Wales and South Australia and the chief minister in the Northern Territory reserved judgment, but Queensland and Victoria came out in support.

On the commercial front, the National Federation of Farmers supported the deal. Even the Australian Mining Industry Council, an umbrella group for the large mining companies, gave lukewarm endorsement. It noted that the package would at least provide certainty by validating existing leases. But the AMIC still quarrelled with the lack of parity between mining and pastoral leases; claimed that native title claimants' right to choose between federal and state jurisdictions would prove unwieldy; and main-

tained that all states would need to be supportive for the package to work.

This may be the sticking point. Western Australia - a key natural resources state - has taken the hardest line against the federal proposals to date. Yesterday, Mr Richard Court, the Liberal premier, said the legislation could lead to long court battles, and pointed out that up to 40 per cent of the state may be subject to native title claim. He is due to hold talks with Mr Keating's legal advisers in Melbourne today.

The Aborigines' response, meanwhile, was mixed. Although Aboriginal representatives were closely involved in the final negotiations, more radical elements within the indigenous community were far from impressed. "It's the coming of the second invasion," said Mr Bob Weatherall, a Brisbane-based activist and chairman of the Aboriginal Provisional Government.

It was up to Aboriginal people to prove that native title existed rather than the other way round, he commented. "The High Court made it plain that it was wrong for governments and commercial groups to collude in taking away Aboriginal land interests in the past without accounting to Aboriginal people. It must be equally wrong for the federal parliament, and the states and territories, in 1993 to repeat the dose by 'validating'."



Something to smile about: Keating announces the agreement yesterday

Russia spurns Japan's plea over dumping

By William Dawkins in Tokyo

FRESH tension entered relations between Japan and Russia yesterday, when Tokyo issued a formal protest over Russian dumping of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan.

Mr Lyudvig Chizhov, the Russian ambassador to Japan, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive a demand that no further dumping should occur.

Mr Chizhov was reported to have replied that Russia did not plan to end the practice, because of inadequate storage on land.

At the same time, the US lent Japan its support by urging Russia to honour an international moratorium on dumping nuclear waste at sea.

The dumping, last Sunday, of 900 tonnes of low-level coolant and cleaning water from Russia's ageing fleet of nuclear submarines, has provoked widespread anger in Japan.

It came only a week after strained relations with Russia looked set to improve, thanks to a diplomatically successful visit to Tokyo by Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president.

The Foreign Ministry asked Mr Chizhov to ensure that the Moscow government cancelled plans to dump a second load of radioactive waste by November 15 and repeated an offer to help Russia dispose of nuclear waste on its own territory.

"It is absolutely deplorable. We shall strongly protest if Russia goes ahead with plans to dump nuclear waste again," said Mr Tsutomu Hata, Japan's foreign minister.

The complaint was delivered after a cabinet meeting in which several ministers voiced anger.

Officials from both sides are to meet in Moscow on November 11 and 12 to discuss the problem of radioactive waste dumping at sea.

Russia informed the International Atomic Energy Agency in advance, an agency official confirmed yesterday.

The moratorium on dumping only covers high-level waste, though signatory countries had also voluntarily decided not to dump low-level material, he said.

The radioactivity of both loads of waste, as registered by the Russians, was within agency guidelines.

Money supply grows faster

By William Dawkins

JAPANESE money supply increased its growth rate slightly last month, adding weight to banking industry claims that there is no credit shortage.

The broadly defined aggregate of M2 (cash in circulation and time and demand deposits) plus certificates of deposit rose 3 per cent in September, against the same month last year, having risen 1.7 per cent in August, the Bank of Japan said yesterday. It attributed the September rise, the sixth monthly increase in a row, to greater corporate fund raising in the capital markets, rather than more bank lending.

This coincided with an announcement from the Federation of Bankers' Associations of Japan, the main industry body, that it had asked members to back the government's recent economic stimulation package by maintaining "smooth lending".

Outstanding loans by the 11 top commercial banks fell 0.5 per cent to ¥222,260bn (¥1,365bn) in the six months to the end of September, the first half-yearly fall since the survey began 39 years ago. Mr Tadashi Okura, federation chairman, said banks would continue to try to help business through the recession.

Concession ends Australian budget impasse

By Nikki Tait in Sydney

THE 64-day impasse over the Australian budget ended yesterday when the federal government reached a deal with minority parties, who hold the balance of power in the Senate.

This should ensure that the government's revenue-raising proposals can pass through both houses. Previously, the

Senate had voted down two elements of the package - a second round of wholesale tax increases, due to come into effect in 1995, and measures to increase wine tax.

The main negotiations yesterday centred on the two Green Party senators. They emerged from the discussions late in the afternoon to announce that the government

would make a series of concessions to compensate for the wholesale tax increases. These would include:

- A A\$3 (£1.20) increase in the job search allowance for the short-term unemployed from March next year.
- An extra A\$1 a child a week in family payments to low-income families.
- An extra A\$2m in emergency programme payments.

Abandonment of the higher education charge for students taking more than the minimum time to complete their degrees.

The two Greens also negotiated to have future wine tax increases examined by an independent inquiry, headed by Mr John Ewart, a former industry minister, rather than by the

Industry Commission.

Commenting on the changes, Mr Paul Keating, the prime minister, said he believed the agreement was "a reasonable compromise which does not undermine the government's medium term debt reduction strategy and is consistent with the intentions of the government for future budgets".

Rice offer splits Japan's people and politics

Tokyo politicians are beginning to face up to the inevitable, reports Emiko Terazono

JAPANESE rice farmers took to the streets of Tokyo last week in protest at the government's offer in GATT negotiations to phase out the country's ban on rice imports.

Japan, seeking to avoid being blamed for delaying the Uruguay Round world trade talks, said informally it would open its rice market after a six-year moratorium.

But while many farmers are angered by the government's move, most are aware that an eventual opening of the Japanese rice market is inevitable.

Only last year, the then prime minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa called for "flexibility" on the rice issue, while members of his cabinet moved to build public opinion for the opening of the rice market.

The government started to prepare a package to liberalise the rice market following rising prospects of an early agreement of the Uruguay Round.

However, Mr Miyazawa managed to escape making the big decision to open the market, as the government shelved plans to lift the import ban earlier this year after the US and EC failed to agree on farm subsidies.

The prime minister, Mr Morihiro Hosokawa, and his cabinet are making the ritual protests against rice liberalisation.

However, before becoming prime minister, Mr Hosokawa was in favour of an open rice market. Furthermore, he is

supported by the back room power broker, Mr Ichiro Ozawa of the Japan Renewal Party, and the posts of agriculture minister, foreign minister, and minister of international trade, are all held by leading JRP members.

Japan's controversial offer, leaked to the press last week, includes a six-year grace period of tariffication on rice, during which it will accept imports equal to three to five per cent of domestic rice consumption. US officials point out that while it remains to be seen if other countries will accept the plan, Japan's move was a "big step forward".

But even if other GATT members accept Japan's plan, Mr Hosokawa will need to convince coalition members which staunchly oppose rice imports.

The socialists, who rely on the rural vote, have generally opposed lifting the import ban. Some are threatening to leave the coalition if the ban is lifted.

The Liberal Democratic Party, strong in rural constituencies, also oppose liberalisation. The LDP, however, risks being split over the rice issue, since some LDP members, including young urban MPs, support liberalisation.

In order to avoid a rift within the coalition disrupting the debate over political reform, the coalition is considering a parliamentary vote over rice imports. In 1988, parliament unanimously voted

against opening the rice market.

But having lost its support base due to its failure to change its image from the rigid left, the socialist party does not seem to have much choice but to eventually side with Mr Hosokawa. Many of the younger members feel the party will not have much to gain by leaving the coalition government, and are calling for the party to accept liberalisation.

Mr Jeff Young, political analyst at brokers Salomon Brothers in Tokyo, says: "The only chance for the socialists' survival is to cling to the coalition". There is a high possibility they will opt for concessions likely to be offered by Mr Hosokawa, such as income support for farmers, instead of abandoning the coalition.

Mr Hosokawa is also trying to weaken the strong rice lobby by electoral reform, which will ease the disparity between the rural and urban vote. By redefining the constituencies, he wants to weaken the clout of the rural vote, which can be worth up to three urban votes.

It is likely that Japan will officially make its offer after the EC and US settle their disagreement over agricultural trade, thus placing Japan at the centre of the negotiations and allowing the government to say it has defended farmers' interests in the face of international pressure.

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NEWS: THE AMERICAS

Travel tax
'to make
up tariff
losses'By Nancy Dunne
in Washington

THE Clinton administration yesterday ignored Republican threats to oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement and proposed \$2.35bn (£1.55bn) in new travel taxes to compensate for the loss of tariff revenue.

Mr Mickey Kantor, US trade representative, yesterday told the House ways and means committee the tax would amount to \$5-\$10 on aircraft or ocean-liner tickets; \$7.50-\$15 on railroad and \$5-\$10 on commercial vehicles.

The revenue-raising method had been selected, he said, because of the close ties between trade and travel.

The administration had by law to come up with taxes or budget cuts to replace the lost tariff revenue. But this way, it defied a group of Republicans led by Mr Newt Gingrich, House minority whip, who say they would find it "difficult" to support a NAFTA which includes new taxes.

One month before the November 17 House vote on NAFTA, the administration is facing numerous such obstacles in its fight to get the implementing legislation approved. Much of its troubles stem from the uneasy alliance in support of the pact.

This includes moderate Democrats, at present about one-quarter to one-third of the House Democrats, and Republicans on the lookout for political traps. Worried the administration will pull away from NAFTA and they will be left alone in support of an unpopular pact, Republicans have demanded the administration lure at least 100 Democrats to the pro-NAFTA side.

They also insisted on a labour side agreement that is so weak it has failed to attract the hoped-for union support.

Democrats such as Mr Richard Gephardt, House majority leader, have demanded the administration set up a strong job-training programme. Because this would require more taxes, which would anger Republicans, the administration has proposed only a 16-month \$800m plan with the promise it will propose a more comprehensive programme next year.

If, as expected, 145,000 workers lose jobs by 1995 because of NAFTA, this "bridge" plan would provide only \$620.66 per worker, according to Congressman Collin Peterson, a Minnesota Democrat.

Mr Santiago Oñate, attorney-general for the environment, said that without NAFTA there could be a backlash in Mexico that would make environmental enforcement more difficult, and damage co-operation with the US and Canada.

Mr Oñate, Mexico's top environmental official, said he was concerned it would be impossible to fund a clean-up of the US-Mexican border, as planned under a billion-dollar scheme.

His comments appear part of a concerted campaign by Mexico to pressure the US into approving the treaty. President Carlos Salinas has suggested that rejection of the treaty could set back US-Mexican relations for generations.

Poll revives question: will Quebec quit?

Tory collapse stokes separatist debate, writes Bernard Simon

SHERBROOKE, an industrial and farming centre in the rolling countryside east of Montreal, will be one of the most closely watched constituencies on election night in Canada next Monday. Political analysts say the outcome there could have a significant impact on national, and especially Quebec, politics over the next few years.

The result in Sherbrooke will shape the political future of Mr Jean Charest, who is the town's sitting MP and, since last June, deputy prime minister in Mr Kim Campbell's Progressive Conservative cabinet.

Most important, the youthful Mr Charest, aged 35, is viewed as one of the few Quebec politicians able to articulate a vision of the future in which the francophone province remains part of Canada. But the Conservatives, who have held office in Ottawa for nine years, have their backs to the wall in the election campaign.

Recent opinion polls indicate that the Tories will not only be defeated by the Liberal party, they may even fail to gain enough seats to form the official opposition.

Nowhere has the Tories' collapse been more spectacular than in Quebec. The party now has 58 out of 75 Quebec seats in the House of Commons. But if recent opinion polls are any guide, it will be lucky to win three or four on October 25.

The Tories have fallen victim in Quebec less to the Liberals than to the Bloc Québécois (BQ), a group formed in 1988 to press for sovereignty for the francophone province. The BQ, led by Mr Lucien Bouchard, a former Conservative cabinet minister, is expected to pick up between 40 and 55 seats on election day.

The BQ's strength has again brought to the fore the intractable debate about whether and for how long Quebec will remain part of Canada. The election of a large group of BQ MPs will not in itself bring

independence to Quebec. "We cannot do anything formally to implement sovereignty in Ottawa," Mr Bouchard says. "This has to be done through a decision made by Quebecers in a referendum."

In any case, opinion polls suggest that the number of Quebecers who vote for the BQ next week will be far greater than the hard core of nationalists who actually favour a break with the rest of Canada.

Among those likely to back the BQ in the election are many who, while not favouring full independence, are frustrated by the failure of one set of constitutional talks after

another over the past decade to devolve more powers from the federal government to Quebec. Political observers also ascribe the BQ's strength to Quebecers' sense that a vote for the Bloc next Monday carries relatively few risks. For many, the BQ's attraction is that it offers a change from the two traditional parties, holding out the promise of better economic times if Quebec's interests are given higher priority in Ottawa.

Mr Alain Dubuc, chief editorial writer at La Presse newspaper in Montreal, wrote in a recent column: "There are no alternatives to the Bloc and that's the problem."

TWO of Canada's most senior politicians have warned of the dangers of electing Bloc Québécois candidates in next Monday's election, writes Bernard Simon in Toronto. Mr Robert Bourassa (right), Quebec's premier, said that a vote for the BQ could be "very risky. It can be counter-productive to favour the instability of Canadian institutions."

Federalists in Quebec have been hoping Mr Bourassa, arguably the most respected politician in the province, would intervene on their side in the election campaign. But opinions are divided on whether his remarks will have a significant impact.

Mr Michael Wilson, the former finance minister who is not standing for re-election, wrote in a commentary in the Globe and Mail newspaper yesterday that "without a strong, truly national voice in parliament, the debate [on Quebec's place in Canada] could become nasty and divisive for the country."

He said strong support for the BQ and the Reform party, based in western Canada, "could generate significant risks for Canada."

The provincial poll to be held some time during 1994 will be far more crucial to Quebec's future than the general election. The BQ's provincial arm, the Parti Québécois, has pledged to hold a sovereignty referendum within 12 months if it succeeds in unseating the ruling Liberals in the provincial election.

The risk is that the presence of a large contingent of separatist MPs in Ottawa could generate rising support for sovereignty within Quebec as the provincial election and then - possibly - a referendum approaches.

Mr Bouchard has promised that the BQ will not obstruct the parliamentary process. But it could raise the level of Quebecers' frustration with the federal system by making demands which a national government, balancing Quebec's needs with those of other parts of the country, cannot fulfil.

For instance, among the decisions facing the next government is the likely closure of some military bases. Mr Bouchard notes however, that while Quebec has 25 per cent of Canada's population, it has only four out of 36 bases. He insists that all four must remain open.

The BQ's ability to further

the separatist cause could be enhanced by the expected strong performance next Monday of the right-wing Reform party, whose main support is in western Canada.

A pillar of the Reform platform is that Quebec should get precisely the same treatment as all nine other provinces. If Quebecers insist on special powers, so the Reform argument goes, they should not be discouraged from leaving the fold.

The political situation within Quebec is also fluid. Mr Robert Bourassa, the respected and popular Liberal premier, announced his resignation from politics last month.

The timing of his announcement at the start of the federal election campaign was widely interpreted as a signal to Quebecers that they might wish to think twice before adding one bit of political instability to another by voting BQ.

But Mr Bourassa's decision has thrown his own provincial Liberal party into disarray. The new leader will be chosen at a convention next January. But only one candidate for Mr Bourassa's job - Treasury Board president Mr Daniel Johnson - has so far come forward.

Other senior party members are offended that Mr Bourassa turned a blind eye to Mr Johnson's early lobbying for the leadership and failed to give them enough time to organise their campaigns.

Mr Johnson is a staunch federalist and has a blue-chip political background. Both his father and brother were premiers of the province. But there is some doubt whether he can match either Mr Bourassa's deft political touch within the party, or Mr Bouchard's charisma on the stump. Hence the hope in federalist circles that Mr Charest will still have a platform after next Monday from which to appeal to Quebecers not to give up on Canada.



US shifts focus of drugs crusade

By Stephen Fidler
in Washington

MR Lee Brown, director of the White House drug control policy office, will today outline a shift in US anti-narcotics strategy which envisages a reduction of operations to intercept drugs transported through Central America and the Caribbean.

Mr Brown's testimony before the Senate judiciary committee follows a review by government agencies of US drug strategy.

One of the conclusions of the

review is that interdiction operations in Central America and Caribbean - including deployment of AWACs and CP3 surveillance aircraft and naval patrol craft - have not been cost-effective.

Interdiction will remain an important part of the strategy but its focus will shift towards source countries, where the emphasis will be on developing local capabilities in intercepting drugs flights and halting operations of cocaine laboratories.

"What we are trying to do as part of the new strategy is to

place more emphasis on institution building and more support for source countries in terms of economic growth and development," said a senior State Department official.

The strategy will propose increased help for cocaine-producing countries - chiefly Bolivia, Peru and Colombia - in their domestic anti-drug programmes, aid with the administration of justice, which is also seen as cementing democracy, and greater emphasis on alternative development in the countries' coca-growing

regions. The US is expected to seek support from the Washington-based international financial institutions in developing the strategy.

Mr Brown's testimony will, however, emphasise developments in drug policy on the domestic front. As well as outlining the strategy - whose full detail will not be known until the budget is presented to Congress next February - Mr Brown is attempting to extend his office's current five-year authorisation, which expires this year.

Argentina to pay
creditor banks
\$7bn this monthBy John Barham
in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA is to issue \$7.23bn (\$4.78bn) in bonds to creditor banks by the end of this month to secure unpaid interest on its foreign debt and so bring to a virtual close the restructuring of its commercial bank debts.

Earlier this year Argentina signed an agreement with its bankers to cut its \$32bn external debt by a third by issuing concessional "Brady bonds" which stretch out maturities and cut both principal and interest.

As part of this agreement, Argentina also agreed to pay \$5.5bn interest arrears accumulated up to December 1991 by issuing more bonds. Until then, Argentina paid banks only \$70m a month in token interest payments.

It will now begin paying the arrears with 12-year bonds that pay 8 per cent over Libor. Payment will come in two stages.

Mr Daniel Marx, financial secretary, said yesterday that bonds worth \$7.23bn would be issued this month.

A second batch, worth \$1.29bn, would be issued by December. Mr Marx said the delays were due to difficulties facing bankers, auditors and government officials in establishing the precise amount of unpaid interest due.

Once the process is complete, Argentina will have \$25.4bn-worth of Brady bonds outstanding. These bonds offer creditors the choice between maintaining the value of loan principal but accepting a low fixed interest rate, or accepting a 30 per cent cut in principal in exchange for floating interest rates.

Banks took \$12.6bn-worth of par bonds that preserve principal and \$4.3bn in bonds that pay floating interest. These bonds are backed by \$3.2bn-worth of zero coupon US Treasury bonds.

Brazil's
Congress
to probe
claimsBy Angus Foster
in São Paulo

BRAZIL'S Congress yesterday decided to conduct a special inquiry into corruption allegations levelled against more than 20 members. But an important constitutional revision process, which some analysts feared would be delayed by the scandal, appeared to remain on track.

The inquiry has 45 days to decide if there is any truth to the allegations, made by Mr José Carlos Alves dos Santos, a former budget secretary who is now facing murder and other charges.

He named several senior politicians, including two serving government ministers and the president of the Senate, as beneficiaries from a corrupt scheme linked to construction contracts under the governments of former presidents José Sarney and Fernando Collor.

Investigators found \$1.4m (\$933,000), including \$30,000 in counterfeit US currency, at Mr dos Santos's home and in safety deposit boxes, police said.

All the politicians involved have denied the charges. An inquiry last year led to the downfall of then-president Collor on unrelated corruption charges.

Congress decided yesterday to continue work on the constitutional revision, aimed at simplifying and modernising the constitution, in parallel with the investigation. Groups opposed to the revision, including left-wing politicians and church groups, had called for its suspension pending the outcome of the inquiry. They argued that with so many members of Congress under suspicion, its rulings on the constitution would be in doubt.

The two government ministers have remained at their posts, despite offering their resignations to President Collor in order to contest the allegations.

Mr Franco, who has stressed the probity of his regime, is thought to want to hear any evidence in full before making a decision on their future.

Housing
starts leap
in US

A SURGE in apartment building during September pushed US construction starts to their highest rate for three and a half years even though building of single-family homes weakened. The Commerce Department said yesterday. Reuter reports from Washington.

The overall annual rate of starts on new homes increased by 2.6 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.35m after a revised rise of 6.7 per cent in August. Starts were up everywhere except in the South, where they fell.

The September pick-up was entirely in multi-family homes, which soared by 53 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 210,000. By contrast, starts on single-family homes fell 3 per cent to a rate of 1.14m.

Mortgage rates were moderate throughout September and by last week had touched a 25-year low of 6.81 per cent for a 30-year loan, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

A National Association of Home Builders survey found its members buoyant about sales over the next six months. Some 63 per cent of respondents saw sales on the rise.

Aylwin snubs Chilean health strikers

By David Pilling in Santiago

THE CHILEAN government has refused to negotiate with striking health workers, whose national stoppage today enters its third week. Most hospitals yesterday continued to turn away all non-emergency cases, a situation that has persisted since the 55,000-strong Federation of National Health Workers called a national strike on October 6.

President Patricio Aylwin recently told the federation, which comprises mainly low-paid auxiliary hospital staff: "This strike is pointless. The position of the government is very clear: we will not negotiate while strike action continues." Last week the president's phrase "not a peso more" was splashed over the front pages.

The governing centre-left coalition, the Concertación, is determined not to appear weak

in the face of popular demands, many of which have festered since the end of Chile's 17-year military rule in 1990. Many middle class and semi-skilled workers saw their real wages drop substantially during the 1980s.

The Concertación has insisted that its policy of fiscal restraint, maintained throughout four years in office, will not be slackened in the run-up to this December's general

election. Its determination to resist high wage demands, many of which it regards as politically motivated, is all the more difficult given the economy's average growth rate of 6.5 per cent since 1990.

The government has characterised as electioneering the guarded support for health workers from Mr Arturo Alessandri, presidential candidate of the right-wing electoral pact, Union for Chilean Progress.

While the blockade could stop tankers, the UN has taken no measures to halt petrol shipments from the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. The Dominican government is close to Haiti's army, and previous cross-border embargo violations had been reported.

The Haitian military is also believed to have stockpiled several weeks' supply of oil reserves.

The dispute has raised tensions in Port-au-Prince. Hundreds of residents have fled to the countryside in anticipation of more army repression or a foreign invasion.

Gen Cedras said the solution to the crisis lay in further negotiation, but UN envoy Mr Dante Caputo, the architect of the plan to restore Mr Aristide, rejected that idea.

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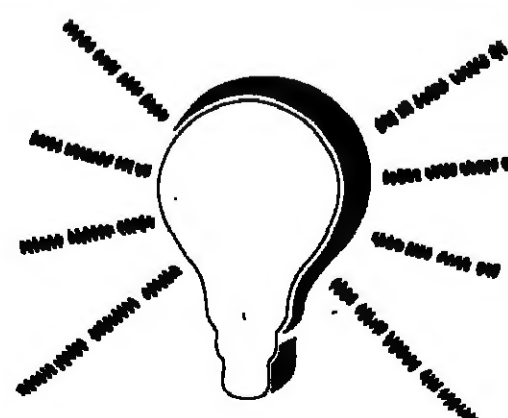
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Blair House 'impasse' puts Gatt at risk

By David Gardner
in Luxembourg

REFUSAL by the US to open talks with the European Community on "clarifying" the Blair House farm trade agreement will make it hard to conclude the Uruguay Round world trade reform negotiations by their December 15 deadline, Mr René Steichen, EC agriculture commissioner, warned yesterday.

"The deadline might be realistic if the Americans are prepared to shift a bit," Mr Steichen said.

Briefing EC farm ministers on his talks last week with Mr Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, Mr Steichen said he was disappointed by Washington's intransigence over the EC's "legitimate, reasonable and responsible" demands.

According to the commissioner, Mr Kantor refused to discuss the additional farm trade concessions sought by France, and incorporated into the EC's negotiating brief after a special meeting of foreign, trade and agriculture ministers on September 30.

Mr Kantor also refused to

open technical discussions with the EC at senior level, dismissing the "clarifications" sought by Europe as an internal Community problem.

At yesterday's Council of Ministers, however, the Commission argued that the US stance might be tactical. "It was always unlikely that the Americans would say now what more they were prepared to discuss in agriculture," one senior Brussels official said.

Mr Steichen's comments set the tone for a low-key debate on the Gatt farm chapter, but also prompted France, Spain, Belgium, Ireland and others to question the December 15 deadline, when the US administration's "fast track" negotiating authority runs out.

Mr Jean Puech, France's agriculture minister, insisted the EC should not be mesmerised by the data. He also introduced a new element into the farm trade imbroglio by insisting the Commission nail down precise interpretations of the extent to which sanitary, plant health and veterinary regulations can interrupt normal trade in agricultural products.

See Commodities

Fine-tuning in the overseas risk business



Ruth Harkin: cautious support

In a corner behind the door to Ms Ruth Harkin's office sits a pile of framed maps of the world, which the new head of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation has not yet had time to hang.

"My personal imprint on the office so far is the paperwork on my desk," she says, several months after her June 2 swearing in.

In April President Bill Clinton launched Opic on its most challenging venture to date: providing loans, loan guarantees and risk insurance to US companies going in to the former Soviet Union, as part of the administration's \$1.6bn (£1.05bn) Russian aid package.

Opic hopes to convert \$40m of government funds into more than \$1bn in loan guarantees, new loans and equity projects in Russia over the next two years.

Like his Republican predecessor, the new president sees Opic as a foreign policy tool. Especially in the current cash-strapped era it is easier to encourage business to go abroad and contribute to development efforts than to make direct appropriations of foreign aid.

In 1992 the 22-year-old agency received its first congressional appropriation. Since then it has done something almost unheard of in the halls

of government: return the money. This year, Ms Harkin says, she will give back about \$17m to Congress.

The agency's main mission is to provide insurance against currency problems, political violence and expropriations to companies seeking to invest abroad. It functions much like a private insurer collecting fees from the organisations it insures. Opic also offers financial services such as direct loans to businesses and fee-earning advisory services.

The agency has attracted a degree

ment of Labour is resistant to foreign investment because of the consequent job losses at home.

"We think that's a specious argument because there are going to be some jobs created in Guatemala, but there are also going to be jobs created here to oversee that investment," says Mr Workman. However, labour, which is not such a natural ally for Opic, has expressed hope that Ms Harkin will be more sensitive to job-loss issues, in that her husband, democratic Senator Tom Harkin, has

heightened sensitivities about Opic policies, with labour and environmental groups scrutinising US trade policy more closely than before.

"Given the heated debate about NAFTA there is a change in the nature of the debate that was not there in the past," says Dr Robert Lawrence, a professor of economics at Harvard University.

Thus far, however, Ms Harkin has earned cautious support from factions which are fighting tooth and nail over the agreement.

One of the agency's newest initiatives is an environmental growth fund that Opic will use to encourage US "envirotech" companies to help clean pollution abroad - a project which Ms Harkin sees as the agency's biggest departure from the Bush era.

Overall, Ms Harkin believes her role is to fine-tune rather than overhaul the agency, which she describes as "a jewel in terms of its efficiency and the calibre of its employees".

It is a job quite different from that confronting the head of the troubled Agency for International Development, a job Ms Harkin went after but did not get. "The intrigue at AID was on a totally different level," she said. "Many people have told me that I am very fortunate [not to be at AID] and I believe them."

Lisa Bransten on a new chief at the Overseas Private Investment Corp

of controversy, with labour unions arguing it is encouraging "runaway plants" that cost US jobs. During the 1992 election campaign the Clinton camp lambasted Opic, along with the Agency for International Development, for encouraging manufacturers to relocate their plants in Central America.

But business believes it has found a champion in Ms Harkin, according to Mr Willard Workman, vice-president of the US Chamber of Commerce. The business community feels the Depart-

always been a strong union supporter.

Ms Harkin said she would not encourage companies to take plants abroad, but she takes a business-oriented approach to whether moving a factory costs American jobs. Factories moving abroad can still create jobs at home, she says, because "you are utilising the local workforce, but at the same time you are bringing over American equipment, which means American jobs."

The battle over the North American Free Trade Agreement has served to

BAe-Taiwan joint venture aircraft would rival Boeing

By Daniel Green and
Dennis Engbarth in Taipei

THE RJ-X aircraft for which Taiwan is insisting on a British Aerospace development pledge would be a direct competitor to the Boeing 737, the world's biggest-selling aircraft.

BAe has already spent about \$10m researching the RJ-X. Last month it presented documents to Taiwan Aerospace Corporation (TAC) showing that the aircraft would be a complete redesign of the existing model, the RJ.

Its fuselage would be built of an aluminium-lithium alloy, a material normally associated with military aircraft.

Unlike the RJ's configuration of four engines attached to wings above the passenger cabin, the RJ-X would have a more conventional layout of two engines on a wing below the fuselage. There would be two versions of the aircraft,

according to documents shown to the Financial Times by Taiwanese officials yesterday, one with 96 seats and the other with 125. Its range would be extended to "more than 1,500 nautical miles".

This would bring the aircraft

'Without the RJ-X, the joint venture would not be a success. It's not a question of yes or no but when it would be built'

into one of the most competitive civil airliner markets, competing against the smaller Boeing 737 versions as well as the latest addition to the Airbus family, the A319 - a smaller version of the A320 which was announced at the

Paris Air Show in June. Boeing is now planning to develop a new family of 737 aircraft to give the airliner more efficiency and a longer range.

It would also compete directly against the Fokker F-100 and the McDonnell Douglas DC9/MD80.

"Within the next 10 years, many 737s and 727s will retire. This would be a good time to market the RJ-X," said Mr David Chu, director of the government advisory team.

While TAC is insisting BAe commit itself to the development of the RJ-X, the UK company is less confident than Taiwan of its future. It is pressing for a detailed survey of the aircraft's potential market to be conducted first.

This position fails to convince Mr Chu. "Without the RJ-X, the joint venture would not be a success. It's not a question of yes or no but when it would be built."

Belelli to build oil platform

ITALY'S Belelli group has won a £130m (\$24.6m) contract to build an offshore oil platform for Shell and BP for deep-water production in the US waters of the Gulf of Mexico, writes Robert Graham in Rome.

The 20,000-ton platform, designed to sit in 910 metres of water, will be able to produce 100,000 b/d of crude and 110m cubic feet of natural gas. Belelli will be using a special "tension leg" design which involves a floating hull stabilised through the attachment of steel tendons to the ocean floor.

The new platform will operate some 200km south-west of New Orleans in the Mars field, which the new tension leg technology has made it possible to exploit. Belelli has built a previous tension leg platform for Shell for use in the Gulf of Mexico.

Credit agencies' future brightens

By David Dodwell,
World Trade Editor

EXPORT credit agencies last year saw an improvement in their vulnerability to dangers of non-payment, for the first time since the 1983 Latin American debt crisis, according to the Berne Union, the umbrella body representing the world's leading agencies.

Mr Ragnar Sohlman, president of the Berne Union and chief executive of Exportkreditnämnden, Sweden's export credit agency, said at the end of the group's annual meeting that the overhang from the 1980s' debt crisis "remains a substantial problem", with most members showing significant cumulative deficits.

But closer linkage now being imposed between insurance premiums paid by exporters and the amount of export business covered "gives some hope for further improvement", he

added. Debt restructuring arrangements being made under the auspices of the Paris Club of creditor countries implied "there will not be full or early recovery of many of the claims paid during the 1980s". So far, 58 countries have reached such arrangements.

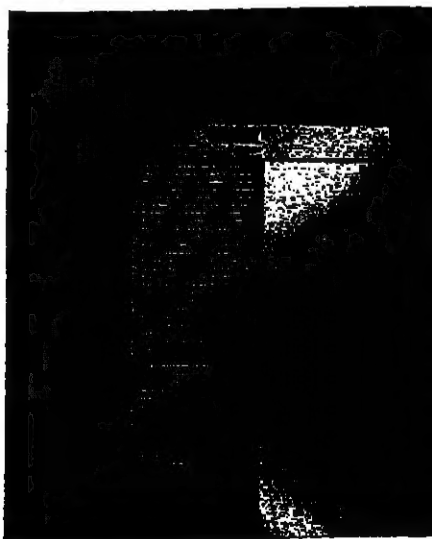
New business underwritten in 1992 by the union's 43 members amounted to \$311bn (£206bn), 6 per cent lower than 1991. Claims fell, while premium income and debt recoveries increased.

The most dramatic change was in insurance cover for investments overseas, a type of cover offered by just 21 of the union's members.

This leapt by 48 per cent from \$4.8bn in 1991 to \$7.1bn last year. Much of the new cover was given for investments in the newly emerging markets of east and central Europe.

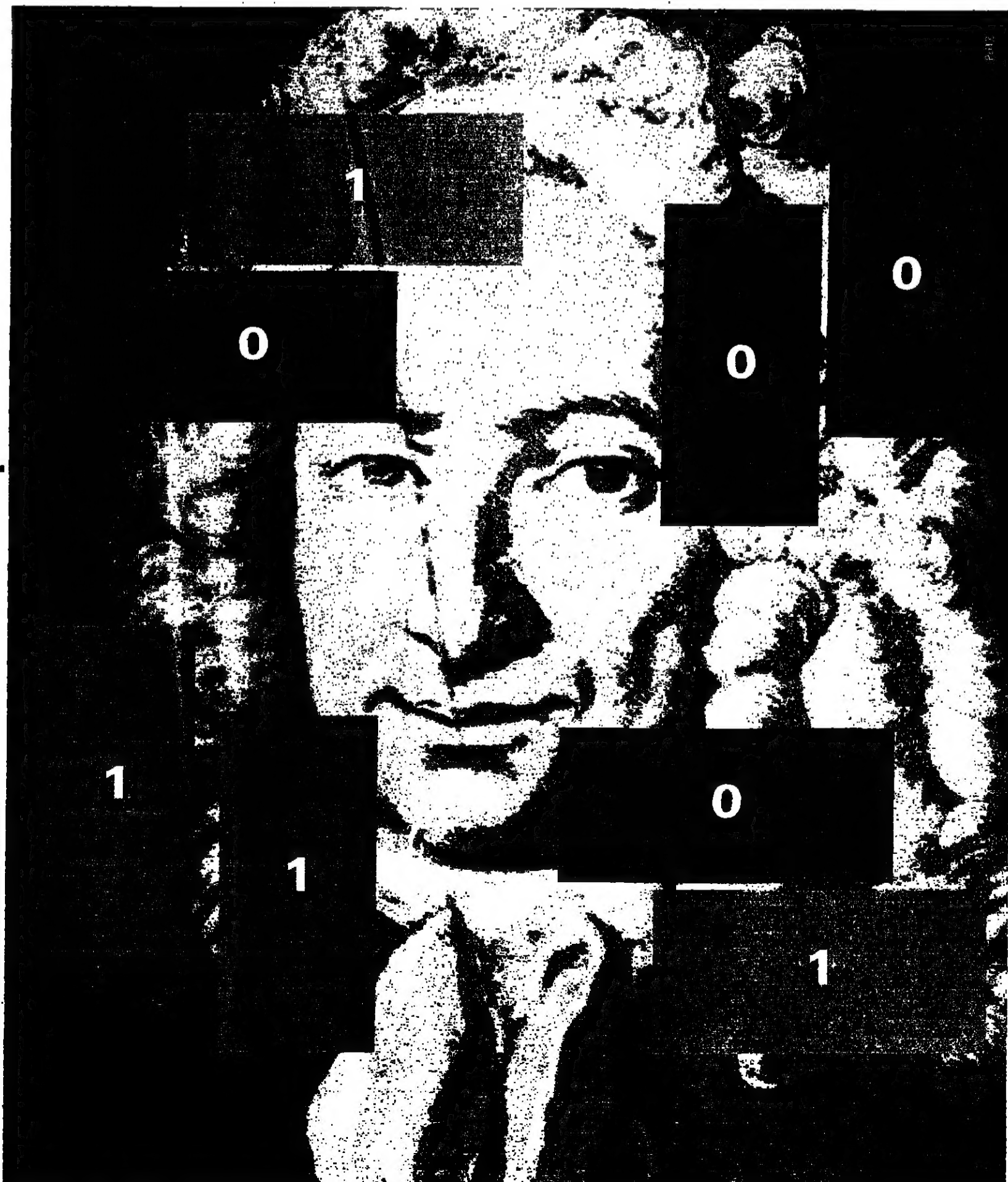
SIEMENS NIXDORF

Dear Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, with gratitude to the inventor of the binary number system, we proudly present the RM high performance computers.....



1673: Leibniz invents the binary number system - calculating with zero and one.
1993: Still using the binary code, Siemens Nixdorf develops the RM Systems, introducing its customers to a new level of UNIX performance. Fourteen new models, from the Mini Tower to the High-end UNIX, one to 16 super-fast RISC processors, each rated at 150 MHz - the RISC-based RM family adjusts step by step to every performance demand and user application. The result: a unique performance range within a unified systems family, ensuring easy expansion of the most advanced IT solutions. Plus the openness that has made Siemens Nixdorf's systems Europe's most successful UNIX multi-user systems.

The European challenge
Synergy at work



Wise men push for Budget rate cut

By Peter Marsh,
Economics Correspondent

ANY tightening in fiscal policy in next month's Budget should be accompanied by a cut in interest rates to avoid jeopardising the "fragile" recovery, the Treasury's panel of outside economic advisers - the so-called "wise men" - said yesterday.

The group said Mr Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer, should set out a long-term package of measures to bring down public borrowing as a way to boost confidence of the financial markets, while spreading any tax rises over a wide spectrum of the UK economy to minimise the effects on demand.

In a cautious assessment of economic prospects, the economists said the slow upturn would continue but might "falter" in the second half of this year partly owing to weakening consumer spending as tax rises loom.

The panel expects UK gross domestic product to grow 1.7 per cent this year, and by 2.7 per cent next year. The upturn might be held back by "below potential" growth for some time in export markets in continental Europe.

The group's report was based on ideas from six out of its seven members, with Professor Wynne Godley of King's College, Cambridge, away from the discussions in the US. The economists are concerned about the threat to the recovery of the £5.5bn of tax rises already due to take effect in April.

Even so they believe Mr Clarke should take action to cut the growing gap between public spending and revenues - likely to reach £50bn this financial year - because of the danger of a rapid increase in borrowing over the next few years.

"A prudent solution would be to introduce a package of tax and spending reforms, desirable in themselves, which would reduce the public sector borrowing requirement over a number of years," the panel said.

For the next financial year, the group suggests only a "modest fiscal tightening" because anything more than this might damage the recovery.

For 1995-96 and beyond the Treasury should pencil in a net fiscal tightening, taking into account both tax rises and cuts in public spending, amounting to about 1 per cent of gross domestic product or roughly £5bn.

One of the threats to the recovery is that, with unemployment remaining high and only low wage increases, personal disposable incomes are likely to grow "slowly if at all" in inflation-adjusted terms.

Also there are "worrying signs" that the housing market has failed to pick up convincingly.

The consensus among the panelists is that the government's 4 per cent ceiling for underlying inflation is unlikely to be breached by the end of next year.

Vauxhall enters credit card market

By Alison Smith

VAUXHALL MOTORS, a subsidiary of General Motors, has become the first UK car manufacturer to enter the credit card market, launching a British version of the GM card currently available in the United States.

The card, to be issued in association with HFC bank, will offer customers a discount of up to £250 towards the cost of a new Vauxhall vehicle. Customers will be able to

choose either a Visa or MasterCard general purposes credit card, and will pay no annual fee. The annualised percentage rate of interest will be 19.9 per cent.

That compares with a 22.9 per cent APR at Barclaycard, the largest issuer with 8.8m cards in issue, and a 23.9 per cent APR at National Westminster bank, which has 4m cards.

Since the GM card was launched in the United States in September 1992, almost eight million people have

become cardholders. There are a further 800 000 in Canada, where it became available last June. GM said that the card had helped to sell over 70 000 vehicles.

Mr Charles Golden, the chairman and managing director of Vauxhall, said yesterday that the aim of the move was to strengthen the relationship with existing Vauxhall customers and attract new customers.

The new card could signal a strengthening of competition in the UK credit card market.

MBNA American bank has already announced its intention to set up a European headquarters and issue credit cards in the UK market. In the US a number of manufacturers, including Ford Motor and General Electric, now issue cards.

Because of the high numbers of company cars in the UK, the British GM card will include a new feature as an alternative to using the rebate towards the purchase of a Vauxhall as a second car. Company car drivers will

have the option of turning their discount points into vouchers that can be used in some shops, hotels and restaurants, rather than towards a reduction in a new car. This part of the scheme will take effect from the beginning of April next year.

Cardholders will receive a rebate of 5 per cent of the value of all purchases made with the card, to a maximum of £500 a year, off the price of a new vehicle. The maximum off any one vehicle will be £2,500

accrued over five years. The rebate points will also apply to balances from other cards transferred to the GM card.

Mr Golden said that the company would look at establishing a system enabling cardholders to receive a rebate on goods and services from corporate partners. In the US these include Mobil Oil, Avis, the car hire company, and Marriott, the hotel chain. GM Europe will be monitoring the progress of the card with a view to possible expansion into Europe.

Britain in brief



High Court clears deal on Wharf

The High Court yesterday approved the £1.1bn restructuring package proposed for Canary Wharf, allowing the development to come out of administration and operate again as a solvent group of companies.

The government's commitment to fund the extension of the Jubilee underground line to Canary Wharf was dependant on yesterday's court ruling. It also means Canary Wharf can now finally sign contracts with two large new tenants which will take the occupancy level of the development up to around 50 per cent.

US cable investment

A US cable company has raised more than £270m to invest in building cable television and telephone networks in the UK, the largest sum to be raised by the industry so far it is believed.

International CableTel has raised \$41m (£274m) in a mixture of debt and equity in New York to build cable networks in England, Scotland and Wales. Altogether the company, which includes the former interests of Insight Communications, holds UK franchises covering 950,000 homes in the UK.

Interest in New Towns

The Commission for New Towns reported a doubling of inquiries over the last six months from potential purchasers of land and buildings. The Commission, which is responsible for selling off the assets of the 21 former English new towns, said improved marketing techniques and a revival in economic confidence had led to a revival.

Recovery in top jobs market

Executive recruitment is showing signs of recovery with the highest growth in demand recorded for staff for five years, it was reported by MSL the human resource consultancy in its latest quarterly survey. "During the first half of the year we were very encouraged to see the level of recruitment at senior level stabilise," said Mr Garry Long MSL's chief executive.

MPs accuse Brunei

A group of Labour MPs last night accused the High Commission of Brunei in London of failing to honour debts incurred by sponsored students from the Sultanate. The MPs said the Commission had failed to honour payments owed to the landlords of properties rented by their students. No one at the Commission was available for comment.

Costco case in court

Three of the UK's major supermarket chains yesterday joined forces in a High Court action to block planning permission given for an American "warehouse club" to trade in Essex. The case is being widely watched by the parts of the retail trade concerned about the impact the arrival of warehouse clubs could have on traditional UK shopping outlets.

Thurrock borough council has given planning permission for the US company Costco to build a 12,880 square metre warehouse.

Sainsbury, Safeway and Tesco have objected to the proposed development, claiming the council acted unlawfully by treating it as a wholesaler rather than a retailer.

The hearing is expected to end today.

£200m order for BAe unit

The government last night awarded a major £200m contract for ammunition to Royal Ordnance, ending a period of uncertainty for the British Aerospace subsidiary.

The announcement - coming at the very end of a Commons speech by Mr Jeremy Hanley, the armed forces minister - will help safeguard nearly 1,000 jobs over five years.



UK's tunnel vision given new image

By Diane Summers

THE FIRST stage of a campaign by Eurotunnel to counter the British public's innate fear and suspicion of being linked to mainland Europe gets under way later this week.

Newspaper advertisements, one of which appears above, will aim to explain in a "friendly and informative" way how the Channel tunnel car passenger service will operate from May 1994. The £2m series of advertisements will form part of a wider £25m pan-European campaign to publicise "Le Shuttle".

Eurotunnel said there was still widespread ignorance in Britain about how the shuttle

would work. "Most people now know you can't drive through the tunnel but many still think you can turn up as a foot passenger," it said. BUP DDB Needham, which devised the newspaper advertisements, said research had shown that the public was less interested in the engineering achievements of the tunnel than how the shuttle worked and what benefits it brought. The four advertisements will emphasise speed, frequency and ease of use of the service. Shuttles will take cars and their passengers 24-hours a day on the 35-minute trip without pre-booking. Prices have yet to be announced but are expected to match Dover to Calais ferry prices.

Lady Thatcher's victims bite back

AFTER being savaged by Lady Thatcher in her memoirs the so-called "wets" and "grandeers" have bitten back, attacking the style and policy of what one described as that "That Woman".

Lord Prior says Lady Thatcher was "dictatorial". Lord Pym, says she was against any suggestion of compromise, "which meant she had a confrontational style". While Lord Gilmour thought her judgment was totally misguided. "She very seldom said a sentence in itself that was interesting. Rather surprising in all those years."

In a BBC documentary series *Thatcher: The Downing Street Years*, starting tonight, the victims of the former prime minister describe their intense dislike of her manner.

Lady Thatcher's quotation of St Francis of Assisi, beginning "where there is discord may we bring harmony" is attacked by Lord Prior, her for-

mer employment secretary, as "complete humbug". He says it was "utter nonsense" for her to have used the quotation since she was the last person to believe in harmony.

Taking up this point Lord Pym, her former defence secretary, said her disdain of compromise made it very difficult to have constructive cabinet meetings. "The idea that somebody else might have a valid point of view which might be a right point of view would never enter her mind at all. No part of her philosophy."

Lord Prior says Lord Soames, who was leader of the House of the Lords, told him that he would not even have treated his gamekeeper as

badly as Lady Thatcher treated one of her cabinet colleagues. Lord Gilmour recalls how he and Lord Carrington, then foreign secretary, tried to negotiate a £1bn refund from the EC at the 1979 Dublin summit and ended up with only two-thirds of that amount.

"They thought they had done rather well. But when they told the prime minister at Chequers she became 'incandescent'."

Lord Gilmour says: "Had we been bailiffs coming to take away the furniture I think we would have been more cordially received. She was like a sort of firework, and one could almost hear her almost sizzling."

Lord Carrington believes

Lady Thatcher "did the foreign office a great deal of damage".

Lady Thatcher recognises she was unpopular with many colleagues and throughout the country but was determined to stick to her guns. "My name was mud with some of my colleagues. They always wanted, some of them, an easy way. But I always had enough to get us through."

She says they talked of me as 'That Woman'. 'It was 'That Woman' which got things done... It never occurred to me that I was a woman prime minister. As for her critics she says: "They had that Biblical weakness - some of them, not all of them - vanity, vanity, all is vanity."

The only former colleague interviewed for the documentary who remains a loyal supporter is Lord Whitelaw, the former deputy leader, who points out that the party won three consecutive general elections under Lady Thatcher's leadership.

Directors of UK subsidiaries get 6%

By Robert Taylor,
Labour Correspondent

DIRECTORS of UK subsidiaries of multinational enterprises enjoyed median pay increases of 6.0 per cent this year, according to the latest survey of managerial pay in Europe published yesterday by Monks Partnership, the British consultants.

After adjustment for inflation the increase in the UK was 3.3 per cent, compared with 3.1 per cent in France. According to the survey

Britain's directors earn after tax just under £30,000 a year, which puts them in 10th position in the European earnings table with only the Nordic countries below.

A Monks Partnership spokesman said there was a much wider variation in the UK between the pay of parent and subsidiary company directors than on the continent. The UK subsidiary manager had median basic earnings of £41,000 a year but the director of a similar UK parent company got 30 per cent more.

Clearly the biggest hurdle to the entire Hume-Adams initiative, however, is whether terms can now be agreed for the IRA to lay down and hand in its weapons, without either the British or Irish governments giving the impression they are in any way negotiating with the IRA or Sinn Féin, which could prompt a Unionist backlash.

Mr Hume has raised the stakes by putting his political career on the line in backing the initiative. If it fails, so will his credibility as the leader of the SDLP.

As the focus now shifts to the British and Irish governments' responses expected next week, they must be well aware of the significance of such a failure and the message it will send to the IRA.

Major to hear new overture of peace from Ulster

But have they really changed their tune? Tim Coone, in Dublin, looks at the latest peace plan from Northern Ireland

AN peace overture welcomed by the IRA, he has taken seriously.

From the people who have pushed home their political message, not just through megaphones in street rallies, or through hunger strikes in prison, but with the invidious persuasion of the car bomb, the incendiary device, explosive letters and the silenced pistol shot in the night?

That is the anguished question that will face Mr John Major, the British prime minister, next week when he hears from the Irish government the details of the recent Hume-Adams peace initiative.

The two leaders from Northern Ireland say they are "convinced that a process can be designed to lead to agreement among the divided people of this island, which will provide a solid basis for peace".

With the government in a desperate economic bind and the Treasury pressing hard to make deep cuts in a stretched defence budget, the temptation for Mr Major to at least explore what may be on offer must be great indeed.

At the same time he is being pushed into a corner by rebellious Tory backbenchers threatening revolt over rail privatisation and welfare reforms, and must rely upon a crutch of support from Mr James Moynaux's Ulster Unionist party

(UUP) if he is to get these key pieces of legislation through the current parliament.

Mr Moynaux, who sees treachery and betrayal of the "Union", the link with the British Crown, behind the Hume-Adams initiative, thus has a powerful weapon with which to attack it. So what is there for Mr Major to chew upon in this initiative, and what makes it different from the many failed peace initiatives of the past two decades?

First, it is not coming solely from Mr Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

It is co-authored by Mr John Hume, the widely respected leader of the mainly Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), who is a lifelong opponent of using violence for political ends, and whose political inspiration is drawn from figures such as Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi, rather than traditional Republican heroes such as Wolfe Tone or James Connolly.

Second, the initiative has the blessing of the Irish government, which has as much interest in seeing a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland as does the British government.

Both Mr Hume and Mr Adams have agreed to keep details of the initiative secret

The long evolution of Sinn Féin and 'The Provos'

- Sinn Féin means "Ourselves Alone" in Irish
- It is the "political wing" of the Provisional Irish Republican Army
- The PIRA is known as "The Provos"
- The Provos split from the Official IRA in 1969 after the OIRA pledged itself to non-violent protest
- Provisional Sinn Féin, now known as Sinn Féin, split at the same time
- The PIRA left behind those republicans who were prepared to recognise the three parliaments in Dublin, London and Northern Ireland
- PIRA demands the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and unification of the island of Ireland
- Violent IRA campaigns were waged in the 1950s and 1960s for reunification
- A campaign for Catholic civil rights against

perceived Unionist abuses of power began in Northern Ireland in 1968.

- "The Provos" were founded in 1969
- British troops were sent to NI in 1969
- The so-called "Troubles" had begun
- The policy of internment in 1972 was a spur to fund-raising, particularly in the US
- PIRA has talked to a Conservative government before, in 1972. One of the delegation was Gerry Adams - now president of Sinn Féin
- The IRA maintains links with revolutionary groups in Europe and beyond
- Sinn Féin and "The Provos" maintain close links but are separate organisations
- Sinn Féin won around 10% of the vote in the province at the last UK general election
- The IRA is still waging a violent campaign in Northern Ireland and on the "mainland"

until both governments have had time to consider and evaluate it but following recent interviews with both men, the following outline of the initiative can be pieced together:

- The initiative sees a three-stage process, beginning with the search for a mechanism to bring about an end to hostilities, progressing through a protracted period of all-inclusive negotiations on the future constitutional status of Northern Ireland, and culminating in a simultaneous referendum north and south of the border
- Mr Hume and Mr Adams do not have any blueprint for a future constitutional settle-

ment, but are united in believing that Unionists should not be allowed to block the British government's own efforts to achieve progress;

- Mr Hume and Mr Adams would accept the outcome of a referendum, even if a majority in Northern Ireland were to reject a solution which would favour a nationalist perspective
- In relation to the last point, Mr Hume says that a simultaneous referendum both north and south of the border "would require a yes from each. If either says no, it's not on. How much further can I go to reassure Unionists? I have not even

suggested what a final agreement should look like, nor has Gerry Adams," he said.

On that same point, Mr Adams says: "I and Sinn Féin want to see an Irish national democracy but what form that takes is for the Irish people to decide". He said that were Sinn Féin's goal of a united Ireland to be rejected in a referendum, even just by a Northern majority, "we would continue to seek a Republican model but through the normal political process".

Mr Adams was not prepared at this stage to reveal what might be the minimum terms the IRA would find acceptable

to lay down their guns. But he told the FT that he would like to see the IRA "in permanent retirement"

He said: "We are trying to take the armed element out of the conflict, all aspects of it and not just the IRA. British forces are one element and the loyalist paramilitaries are another. We are trying to put together a political process, such that those presently involved in the military side of the struggle can become involved in a political process, putting aside the military aspect. I would like to see the IRA in permanent retirement. The Unionists have no monopoly in wanting peace."

He continued: "John Hume and I do not profess to have all the answers. Others also have to grasp the nettle as well, and we may have to make it easier for them to do so. If our proposals are not good enough, then let's hear why and see if people at this end can accommodate them. Everything is possible if the British government has the political will to move this process forward."

The Northern Ireland Office has responded with predictable caution to Mr Adams' remarks. It said yesterday: "Is there anyone who does not want to see all the paramilitaries in permanent retirement? Ending violence is enough of a valid, and long overdue aim in itself

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When it comes to stirring up public antipathy towards the pulp and paper industry, a picture of a horribly maimed fish goes a long way. Or so Greenpeace in Germany found several years ago, when as part of a campaign to promote "totally chlorine-free" (TCF) pulp and paper production, it put out a spoof version of the magazine Der Spiegel, complete with photographs claiming to show the devastating impact which pulp mill effluents could have on marine life.

Run-of-the-mill debates

It must rank as one of German Greenpeace's most successful campaigns. By common consent, the environmental organisation did much to create the consumer pressure which has forced many German publishers, paper manufacturers and merchants to go "totally chlorine-free" in the last two years. This in turn has forced a number of pulp mills which supply the German market to find substitute bleaching agents for the chlorine compounds they use.

German Greenpeace took the initiative against chlorine and it has succeeded, says Pertti Laitinen, director of the Finnish Forest Industries Federation's industrial and environmental unit. "We have had to invest billions of marks to change our bleaching methods." The latest in a long line of such investments will come on stream next month when Metsä-Botnia's Kaskinen mill in western Finland inaugurates a new ozone bleaching plant as part of its commitment to TCF production.

At least 10 Nordic pulp mills now have the capacity to produce TCF pulp, and nearly all of them have started these operations in the last couple of years. The investment has had to be made despite the severe financial squeeze which has gripped the industry as the pulp price has plummeted from more than \$800 (\$70) a tonne in 1989 to the \$400 a tonne level which prevails today. The impetus has come because "nobody can afford to lose the German market", according to Richard Cockram, a consultant with the UK company NLK Consultants.

Germany is not the only country where environmentalists are pressing for TCF. Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands, as well as the Nordic countries are all now leading consumers of TCF pulp, helping TCF's share of Europe's graphic papers market to more than double from seven per cent to 15 per cent in the past year.

But the trend has been much slower to catch on in the UK, France, Italy and other European countries, where consumers have been reluctant to pay extra for TCF. There is no doubt that TCF pulp production costs more, simply because it requires substantial investment in new machinery. Thus the pulp mill wants a TCF premium

The Nordic pulp industry is under pressure to change its bleaching methods, writes Christopher Brown-Humes



The Mörrums Bruk Mill, Växjö, Sweden is meeting growing European demand for chlorine-free pulp

from the paper manufacturer, who wants one from the publisher, who in turn wants one from the end-customer. This may be relatively easy to achieve in buoyant markets. But during the recession it has undoubtedly caused a squeeze which means not everyone in the chain is receiving the premium they require. Hans Burmeister, marketing director of Sweden's Södra Cell, the biggest supplier of TCF market pulp in Europe, says his company is generally managing to obtain the DM100-DM150 (\$41-62) per tonne premium from German customers which it needs to cover its additional costs. But the premium is only relative to a very depressed general pulp price, he notes.

The recession has also intensified the debate about the most effective and cost-efficient TCF bleaching process. Some mills just use hydrogen peroxide, but this is very costly; some use a combination of hydrogen peroxide and enzymes, but the pulp produced is less bright. More recently, a number of mills have started using ozone, as this enhances pulp brightness. But the development has not been universally welcomed because the gas is

very reactive and highly poisonous. A more fundamental debate centres on whether TCF is any more environmentally friendly than the ECF (elemental chlorine-free) bleaching process it is replacing. The latter uses chlorine dioxide and is far less damaging to the environment than elemental chlorine which is being rapidly phased out. In modern ECF mills, emissions of chlorine compounds can be as low as 0.3kg-0.4kg per tonne of pulp produced, which is well below the 50kg level common only a few years ago.

A study by a group of Canadian scientists has added spice to the ECF/TCF debate. It has found evidence of fish being damaged by pulp mill effluents, irrespective both of the bleaching process used and whether it carries out any bleaching at all. It concludes there is something toxic in pulp-mill effluent, but that this cannot be attributed to the bleaching plant.

The question is whether such studies will slow growth in TCF demand or merely change the focus of the debate from chlorine dioxide to the wider issue of effluent-free pulping. Christoph Thies, a paper specialist with Greenpeace in Ham-

Turning full circle at the power station

Europe's first energy plant fuelled by old tyres has opened in Britain, reports Tim Burt

Most vehicles in Britain are not just running on four wheels but on a potential energy resource - tyres - which an innovative power company has begun burning to generate electricity.

The idea of burning tyres raises images of noxious fumes and black smoke, but Elm Energy, a US joint venture, has won permission to open Europe's first power station in Britain, fuelled by Michelin, Goodyear, Pirelli and other makes.

An intensive lobbying campaign by the company has convinced regulators and local authorities not only that drivers' last punctured tyres may be consigned safely to the furnace, but that a stringent recycling system will ensure they will not then inhale the by-products.

Standing outside Elm Energy's newly completed power station in Wolverhampton, which has its formal opening early in November, Anne Evans, the managing director, claims the recycling facility will out-perform other waste-to-energy schemes.

An average tyre, she says, contains the equivalent energy of 12 cu m of natural gas and is second only to oil in British Thermal Units (BTU), the common measure of heat energy produced during incineration.

Following the completion of pre-production tests at the plant, truck loads of old tyres are being fed into five giant furnaces where they will burn at up to 950°C. Elm Energy expects to generate heat energy of 13,500 BTU per pound, compared with 12,000 BTU for coal, 2,500 BTU for household rubbish and 1,500 BTU for food waste.

Burning tyres is hot work and could easily produce the steam to drive a turbine.

Elm Energy's success has rested on citing similar operations in the US where the tyre industry can dispose of its rubbish at one end of a power station and see no harmful gases emerge at the other.

The company - formed by Nipco, the Indiana utility group,

and the Performance Service Corporation of Connecticut - has pioneered a system which it claims will consume 21 per cent of Britain's waste tyres with minimal emissions.

That claim is based on its unique power generation and recycling process.

Under the system, batches of tyres are rammed into furnaces, where all the material is expected to burn so rapidly that almost no carbon gases can form. Split-level hearths in the furnace will, meanwhile, pulse along a series of steps so that the ash - mostly steel wire - can be fed into hoppers for recycling to the scrap metal industry.

Elm Energy convinced regulators and local authorities not only that your last punctured tyre may be consigned safely to the furnace, but that a stringent recycling system ensures you will not inhale the by-products

Before reaching the next stage, where furnace gases flow around water-filled drums to produce turbine-driving steam, any remaining organic material is incinerated in return tunnels fed with combustion air. Having produced enough energy for 30MW of electricity - supplying 25,000 homes - the tyres' job is done.

If the remaining gases were pumped straight into the atmosphere, environmentalists would have justifiable complaint. But Elm Energy says its recycling means that emissions of harmful substances will be less than one-millionth of the World Health Organisation limits.

First, the fine gases are filtered through hundreds of Gore-Tex

bags to extract zinc oxide. The company plans to sell this waste to the tyre industry for re-use in new products.

Remaining waste gases flow into a lime reactor which converts harmful sulphur dioxide into calcium sulphate. At the final stage, the sulphate will be filtered through another series of Gore-Tex bags and the residue sold for building materials.

"There will be no black smoke, no environmental problem," predicts Evans.

"If this plant isn't clean enough then you cannot build anything in the UK." She may be right. But all this technology costs money and the government, determined to encourage alternatives to coal, has underwritten the scheme. Elm Energy's initial contracts with the Non Fossil Fuel Agency, which purchases the power and resells it to Midlands Electricity company, are confidential.

Evans says these contracts would be withdrawn if she revealed their value. All she will admit is that the government has guaranteed the company's short-term contracts, so helping the company to borrow the capital to set up the plant.

More than £40m has been invested in the Wolverhampton plant and Elm Energy is confident of a handsome return.

That income has a double bonus: on the one hand, the government wants to promote waste-to-energy schemes; on the other, the tyre industry is keen to see its tyres go into power generation rather than landfill sites.

Elm Energy says its operation will be cheaper than other waste-fuelled power schemes because there will not be tonnes of burnt ash to dispose of.

The company is so certain it can provide energy at the right price that it is already planning further plants in Scotland, southern England and continental Europe.

In Wolverhampton, Evans says people have the right attitude: "They're not afraid of tyres."

PEOPLE

Hanson sends Cotton to chair Renison

Hanson is taking a "hands on" approach to Renison Goldfields Consolidated, the quoted Australian mining group in which the Anglo-American conglomerate has a 40 per cent stake and which has a far from sparkling recent financial record. Hanson has persuaded one of its senior directors, Anthony Cotton, to become deputy chairman at Renison for a year before taking over from chairman Max Roberts; he will stay to help with the changeover.

Campbell Anderson, until recently Renison's chief executive, used to say that there were three types of company in Hanson's portfolio - the A companies were core businesses, and not for sale; buyers were actively being sought for C companies; leaving the B companies which were for sale if someone should come along with the right offer. Poor old Renison, he suggested, was on the B list.

Hanson was keen to give the impression yesterday that Renison had now moved to the A list and has "persuaded one of our senior people to take this appointment". According to an official, Han-

son is anxious to increase its presence in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region and Renison might provide some opportunities for that. Renison, analysts suggest, is an ideal candidate for "Hansonisation". It has been badly hit by the collapse in most commodity prices and recorded net losses for the past two financial years. But there have also been strategic mistakes which have added to the pain. Hanson's chance to move in emerged because Campbell Anderson, seen as the likely successor to the present chairman, decided instead to move to North Broker Hill Peko, another Australian resources

Adding up at KPMG



The search is on for a new head of the tax discipline at KPMG Peat Marwick, the UK's second largest accountancy firm, following changes in all the senior positions.

Garry Acher was yesterday announced as the new head of audit and accounting, following the elevation of his predecessor, Michael Fowle, to become head of the firm's south-east practice.

Fowle takes over from Colin Sharman, currently deputy senior partner, who becomes senior partner at the start of next year following the retirement of Jim Butler.

Acher's current role as head of corporate finance is taken on by Neil Lerner, currently head of privatisations. He will probably continue to hold this existing job.

Roger White, currently head of tax, will remain as the senior tax partner, but it is believed there will be a new head of the tax discipline, while White will concentrate

more on practice protection. Tim Hayward is remaining head of insolvency.

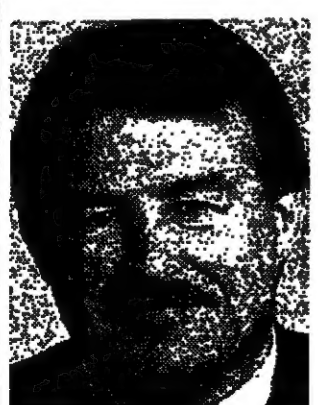
All the appointments except Sharman's have effect from the start of this month. But that leaves one vacant post from Christmas: deputy senior partner, which Sharman inherited when Bill Morrison retired, and which he will vacate from the start of 1994.

KPMG is a firm with six regional partnerships, but with the south east accounting for 80 per cent of fee income. That has traditionally made head of the south-east the number two position in the firm.

Sharman is still considering whether he will also need a new deputy senior partner, on top of a management team of about eight people to include the heads of the disciplines, and functional areas such as practice protection and risk management.

Acher, 43, who led the firm on bid defence work including Hanson and ICI, BTR and Hawker Siddeley, and Whyte and Mackay and Invergordon, says there is still too much "low-balling" or competitive fee-cutting between accountancy firms. One of his priorities is to give the firm a higher profile in the current audit and accounting debates.

Baron for Owners Abroad



Owners Abroad has appointed Francis Baron as chief executive, thus completing the top management reorganisation triggered by the resignation of Howard Klein from both positions in July.

Baron has been chairman and chief executive of Anglo-Saxon Television, a family company he set up last year after he resigned from European TV Networks.

Michael Julien, former chief executive of Storehouse who was appointed non-executive chairman of Owners Abroad in August, is understood to have wanted a chief executive with strong management and marketing skills.

Klein was forced to resign after he issued a profits warning only four months after Owners Abroad narrowly fought off a hostile bid from rival Airtours.

Baron joined W.H. Smith in 1983 to build a television division from scratch. By 1991, when W.H. Smith sold its television interests, the division had become one of the largest satellite operators in the UK.

Baron helped put together an international consortium, which became European Television Networks, to buy the business from W.H. Smith for £250m.

But he resigned last year after differences with the foreign shareholders and set up Anglo-Saxon Television.

Mike Jones has been appointed finance director at ALEXON group; he moves from the Merchant Retail group, where he was group finance director. He replaces David Cohen who left on October 1 to join EDS Europe.

In April this year ALEXON went through some turmoil as three of its biggest institutional shareholders forced a change of management after some dismal financial results. Then, Lawrence Snyder stepped down as chairman and Ruth Henderson and Peter

Riddale resigned as joint chief operating officers.

John Sadler, a former finance director of the John Lewis Partnership was appointed non-executive chairman and John Osborn, a former director of Sears, took over as chief executive.

ALEXON lost nearly £1m before tax last year and passed its final dividend; it had made an £11.5m profit in the previous year. Its interim figures showed a pre-tax loss of £10.2m, against profits of £1.5m last time round.

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MANAGEMENT

They were handing out the Oscars to Europe's leading "quality" companies last week. But amid all the razzamatazz in Turin no one seemed to notice that this year's winning businesses - like some of last year's - are foreign owned.

The 1993 award conferred by the European Foundation for Quality Management was won by last year's runner up, the European operations of textile products group Milliken - a US company with its headquarters in Georgia, ICL, whose manufacturing and supply division had to settle for second place, is an 80 per cent subsidiary of Fujitsu of Japan. Ranx Xerox, which was the overall victor in 1992, the first year the Award was given, is a hybrid, 50 per cent controlled by the US Xerox Corporation.

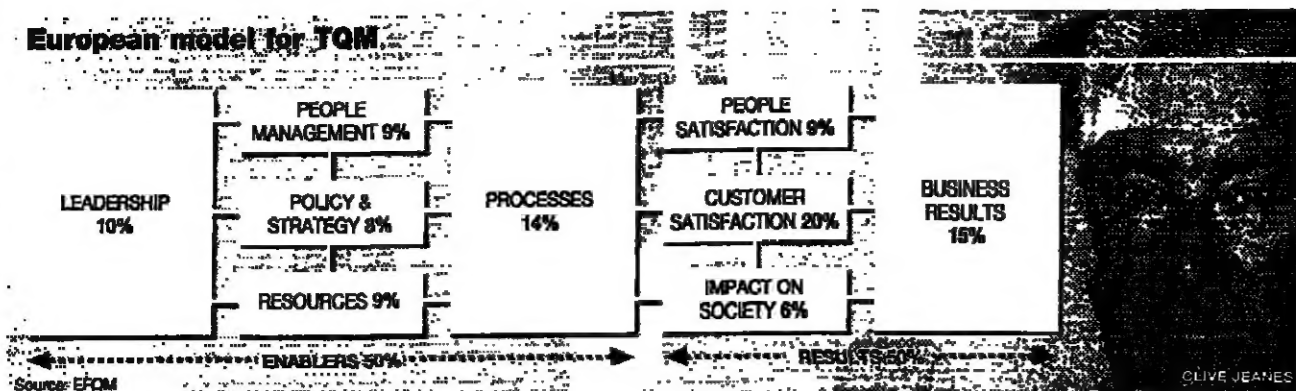
The non-European parentage of all three companies is too much of a coincidence to let pass. At the very least it reinforces the view that Total Quality Management - the additive religion of the quality movement - remains better understood and more widely accepted in North America (where it was invented) and in Japan (where it was first properly applied).

Nearly all the attendees at last week's Quality Forum organised by the EFQM, which culminated in the prize-giving ceremony in Turin, were converts. The challenge they face is how to spread the word beyond the tiny elite of mostly large companies which practice what they preach, and how to reinvigorate a message which may be losing its force.

At its baldest, TQM means applying quality right across an organisation - to delivery systems, administration and customers as well as to a product or service - in the quest for competitive advantage. TQM reached Europe in the early to mid-1980s and has been as durable as any recent management idea, although it has encountered considerable scepticism in the market place.

TQM is struggling to make an impact in Europe, says Tim Dickson

Quality street cred



For some it was an attractively simple concept, which has now been needlessly overlaid with jargon and used as a meaningless "catch all" for other management nostrums. Consultancy firms - always on the look out for new ways to sell their services - have contributed to a feeling that TQM has been superseded by concepts such as Just in Time manufacturing or Business Process Re-engineering.

The fuss over European-wide certification - notably complaints by small and medium-sized suppliers about the time and money spent on acquiring the quality standard ISO 9000 to appease their more demanding customers - has also given TQM a bad name. On top of this, surveys have shown that TQM programmes have too often failed to deliver the sort of benefits anticipated by managers. The correlation between TQM and financial performance is particularly hard to prove, though one recently demonstrated that out of a sample of 29 companies running formal programmes, 70 per cent did better than the average in their sectors.

Mike Gallagher, manager of the European quality award,

acknowledges the confusion but argues that TQM has highlighted four "timeless" ideas "which are constantly of importance to the top team". These are the importance of the customer; the need to involve everyone in the company; the concept of process management (every business activity should be viewed as a process); and the goal of continuous improvement.

Business Process Re-engineering, he argues, is "really just looking at process management starting with first principles. It does not provide all the answers - what about employee involvement or customers, for instance?"

Besides its annual prizes and award, EFQM's mission is to stimulate quality activity as widely as possible, notably through the application of its self-assessment model. This is based on the simple premise that processes are the means by which the organisation harnesses and releases the talents of its people to produce results.

As the illustration demonstrates, customer satisfaction, people (employee) satisfaction

and impact on society are achieved through a company's leadership driving its policy and strategy, people management, resources and processes. This ultimately leads to excellence in business results. Each of the nine elements is a criterion which can be used to assess the organisation's progress towards TQM and thereafter to adopt improvement strategies. The percentages shown are those used for the purpose of the EFQM award, but can be varied depending on the nature of the company concerned.

Besides its use as a self-improvement tool, Gallagher believes that the EFQM self-assessment process offers a sound basis for strategic direction and priority setting.

Naturally enough, strong endorsement comes from ICL and Milliken Europe. The latter's chairman and managing director, Clive Jeanes, adds that the assessment process for the award was "a great learning tool" and among other things prompted him to institute bi-monthly meetings of top executives from the company's four European businesses. Jeanes says Milliken Europe first adopted a planned approach to quality in 1981.

"We have always believed in buying the best technology, but I remember being struck how the Japanese in those days were more efficient than us using machines that were 20 years older."

By 1985, the company noted that measuring performance was having a bottom line impact, but it still had not asked its customers what they wanted. "When we did we were amazed to find that after product quality, on-time delivery was the next most important item. At that stage, however, only 75 per cent were arriving when we said they would."

Jeanes says Milliken's TQM took off in 1987 and 1988. Before visiting Japan in 1991 - when 24 of the company's executives saw 10 companies in 10 days - he read six textbooks on the subject.

"With a quality programme you add to your costs in the very short term, you recognise problems you didn't know about. But the payoff over two to three years is tremendous."

"Brochures on self assessment and applications for the 1994 award (deadline March 1994) from EFQM, Avenue des Pleades 19, 1200 Brussels.

Navigators without a map or compass

UK companies are failing to look to the future with a sense of strategy, says Christopher Lorenz

Many British companies, sizeable as well as small, are trying to navigate their way to competitive survival in the dark, without either a map or a compass. Almost a third look no further forward than one-year budgets, and more than half have no long-term goals.

This bleak picture emerges from a study of the way that over 1,100 UK companies of all shapes and sizes think, plan and act strategically - or fail to do so.

But this picture may be just the tip of a miserable iceberg. The study, called "Unplanned and Unprepared", suggests that, on top of the 30 per cent which have no strategy, up to another 40 per cent plan inadequately.

The study was conducted by a thriving consultancy called Strategy for Success, formed out of one of the few fee-earning parts of the National Economic Development Office, which was wound up at the end of last year.

The study makes instructive reading, even if its terminology owes too much to Nedo's belief in formal planning and too little to the new business orthodoxy of what academics call "emergent strategies": those which emerge from entrepreneurial action, albeit within a loose strategic framework.

This view sees "strategy" and "planning" as two separate animals: strategy as

a sense of direction, and planning as the detailed road map which one uses to get there.

The "planning" frame of reference causes the authors of the study to be a little over-ready to suggest that three-year formal plans are too short for many companies' best interests, when in many industries - consumer and office electronics, for instance - this is the furthest that things can be plotted in any detail.

Of the 1,100 companies surveyed, no fewer than 15 with revenues of over £500m put themselves in the category of having "unclear goals", or none at all. A further five were contained in the 10 per cent of the sample which had only short-term goals. Making only short-term plans may be excusable, even sensible, but having only short-term goals, or none at all, is suicidal. As one respondent put it, doing so is tantamount to being "adrift and rudderless in a turbulent sea".

Another problem which emerges from the survey is the failure of some companies to realise that planning can - and should - be much more than just a corporate activity directed at acquisitions and marketing; plans, or at least goals and strategies, should be formulated at every level of the organisation and for every activity.

Commenting on the results of the study, Brian Weekes, the consultancy's managing director, says some companies "have won in the UK third

division without taking a strategic view, and therefore think they'll survive in the international marketplace".

But other companies recognise the problem: "They know they've been jammed into a short-term timeframe - often by their own top management - and they know they must get out of it," says Weekes. For sizeable companies he cites two particular impediments to long-term thinking or planning, depending on the type of company.

In private companies, the main problem is often the owner-manager's refusal to allow strategic issues to be thrashed out properly because of the obvious need either for large injections of capital or for radical changes in the nature of the business - or for both.

For subsidiaries of public companies, he says a frequent problem is that their freedom to think and act strategically is constrained by their lack of complete control over key activities such as marketing or manufacturing; these are carried out by the parent company surprisingly often, Weekes says.

A third common barrier to strategic thinking and action is the lack of cross-functional collaboration, especially between marketing, engineering and manufacturing.

Unplanned and Unprepared. From Strategy for Success. £10.50. Fax (UK) 071-833 9116.

Improving business with the community's help

Involvement in the community through training, economic regeneration, education and equal opportunities policies can improve corporate performance, according to a new survey of top business executives and other opinion formers.

Companies with active community affairs programmes are likely to have a more committed and happy workforce, the survey found. There are also benefits in public image and customer loyalty.

Over 80 per cent of those polled said that a reputation for being socially responsible and responsible is becoming a competitive advantage.

The findings of the survey were presented last night to the annual meeting of the Per Cent Club in London, a group of large companies which

devote a proportion of their profits to community activities.

Sponsored by six, blue-chip companies, with well-developed community involvement programmes, the survey was based on interviews with 700 opinion leaders around the country, including more than 120 top executives from both industry and the City of London.

The survey will offer some reassurance to business leaders who must justify every expense in the current adverse climate. However, it also suggests ways in which companies can maximise the returns from their community involvement.

City investors should be informed of the rationale for community involvement programmes - at present, they

are often unconvinced of the commercial benefits.

Senior managers also need more convincing of the value of community programmes - they are often less clear about their objectives.

Local managers should be given greater responsibility for community investment programmes, as this will result in more effective links with community organisations.

New forms of partnership are needed with national charities to support the aims of both businesses and charities through strategies such as cause-related marketing.

Further information from Opinion Leader Research, 30 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8HR. Tel: 071 242 2222

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Deadly fanaticisms

Because many Haredi Jews regard television as impious, they will not have seen the play that has caused the controversy, *Wall of Silence* (BBC1, Sunday).

Comedy writers Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran (both Jewish) set a murder mystery in the strictly orthodox, mysterious Haredi community in north London, which sounded promising and was mysterious enough. But by the end it still had no idea how the estate agent with the gentle wife in Bristol fitted in, nor how the lady with a fractured skull underwent her ultra-orthodox wig came to be sitting on a train.

The greater mystery was how such poppycock ever achieved the *Screens One* slot. Marks and Gran's comedy background showed in wooden dialogue, preposterous characters and huge signposts to tell viewers what is going to happen next. The police chief agrees to lend his car to a colleague. "Have you seen the way he treats his car, gov?", cautions a minion. Surprise, surprise: the hero, PC Mullens (Bill Paterson) writes it off in the next scene.

The story starts when the corpse of a kosher butcher is pulled from a canal in his Volvo, a swastika daubed on the bonnet. But this is no racial murder, as PC Mullens realises when he is informed, implausibly late in the day, that the corpse had been stabbed through the eyes.

Mullens duly expounds more customs of the Haredim. The butcher must have been a *moysen*, or informant, to killed by this grisly ritual. On Radio 4's *Sunday* programme, orthodox Jews expressed fears (a touch unrealistic to my mind) that viewers might link eye-stabbing to the ancient Israelite Jews ritually murdering Christian children and incite anti-Semitism.

According to The Jewish Chronicle, the upshot was that PC Mullens's spial was altered to include the qualifying comments about eye-stabbing

being entirely alien to British Jewry. However, a closer look suggests that this was a strangely grudging and partial appeasement.

The *Encyclopaedia Judaica's* discussion of legal penalties for *moysen* - the source, I would guess, for Marks and Gran - gives no record of anyone ever being treated thus, although some European rabbi seems to have favoured mutilation as a lesser punishment than excommunication.

So why did Gran and Marks get it wrong? It is legitimate to write plays about Haredim or any other religious group. But the odder and more alien the group appears to the rest of society, the more it behoves a playwright to strive to be accurate.

Assignment: *The Price of Gold* (BBC 2, Tuesday) spelled out something I should have known, the vital link between a decade of gold prospecting in Brazil and the destruction of the rain forest. Julian Pettifer's interesting report painted a vivid picture of the frontier mentality of Amazon mining towns.

The gold prospectors are as one would expect - tough, uneducated men who have little faith that they will make old bones. A bullet, a mining accident, or malaria will probably get them first. Very low down their list of anxieties, if any, where at all, are the long-term health risks of using mercury.

Mercury is banned, but it is used in large quantities. It is mixed with the sludge dredged from the river because it bonds to the gold particles. Some of this mercury is released into the river and a great deal more is burnt off with blow-lamps. This vapor mixes with ash from burning the forests. The result is high levels of mercury in the atmosphere above the Amazon and, in some unspecified circumstances, methylmercury forming in the rivers. This deadly substance passes up the food chain and ends up in fish eaten by the riverside dwellers.

How serious are the health risks is as yet unclear. Scientists are keener to analyse sat-



Timothy Busfield, Bill Paterson and Warren Mitchell in 'Wall of Silence'

rubbed with a grater.

This well-researched documentary aired allegations that despite the Thatcher government's claims not to have struck any deal with the Republican prisoners, negotiations were conducted throughout the strike and concessions were quietly made after it ended.

The programme's weakness was to have left the attitude of the Catholic Church so unclear, especially as Maze chaplain Father Dennis Faul played a prominent part in the drama and was interviewed at some length. What seemed to emerge was that fasting in protest was permissible - indeed, as I recall, St Patrick was said to have fasted against an uncooperative king.

However, the hierarchy's attitude to the hunger-strike changed when it was deemed that the protestors intended to die. Once across this rather fine line, they would presumably have committed suicide, a mortal sin for Catholics. If this was indeed the case, the fact that papal emissaries brought Bobby Sands a golden crucifix before he died needed some explanation.

Recital/Richard Fairman

Christa Ludwig's farewell tour

The generation of singers that burst on to the stage after the war is gradually taking its final bow. Earlier this year Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau retired with unexpected suddenness, leaving probably the last of his long-serving German contemporaries to continue progress on her own, more patiently orchestrated tour of farewells.

It is extraordinary to think that Christa Ludwig made her professional debut as long ago as 1946. Since then she has been at the top of her profession, a warm, glowing, Germanic mezzo-soprano with power enough to conquer some of the summits of the operatic repertoire. However ambitious she was, stretching up to Beethoven's soprano Leonore, embracing Wagnerian heroines, the voice never suggested she had gone too far.

Farewells have already been said in Salzburg, New York and Paris. A pair of recitals at the Wigmore Hall and a concert with the Philharmonia next February constitute her final London appearances. A tear was in the singer's eye as she finished her encore at the second of the recitals on Monday, but the evening seemed more a cause for rejoicing that she can still sing so much so well, some passing problems with intonation apart.

The programme was illustrated with the leaflet advertising her debut recital in London. That was at the Wigmore Hall in 1957 - interesting to note that she was already described as "the great mezzo-soprano", although she had only recently made her first major recordings. Clearly the word had got around. Two of the songs that she sang then were in Monday's selection, and were among her most successful: Mahler's "Rheinlegendchen" and "Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen".

The latter exemplifies the very best of Ludwig. When she sings that she "rests in a quiet realm", music and singer seem spiritually at one. The song's expansive, late romantic vocal lines, unfolded as though time is of no importance, could not be better suited to this voice. The sound, always at its most beautiful in the lower middle, simply pours out, relaxed, free from tension, expressive of deep-seated Mahlerian calm.

Part of that is achieved because she does not try to seize upon the words in the intense style of a Schwarzkopf or Fischer-Dieskau. Ludwig's way has been simpler and to that extent less memorable in what she has had to say than they were. But this was not the occasion to complain. By the time Charles Spencer allowed the final notes of Strauss's "Morgen" to die away, the singer's unforced eloquence had unarguably made her case for her - a moving end to a reign of nearly half a century.

Wexford Festival/David Murray

Tchaikovsky's 'Cherevichki'

If some of us knew anything about this obscure Tchaikovsky opera, it was probably because it was called something like "The Tzarina's Slippers". Even that turns out to be wrong: the footgear at stake is elegant travelling boots. On hearing that Vakula the Smith, whose mother is the sexy old witch Solokha, needs to get hold of those *cherevichki* to win the hand of Oksana, however, ENO regulars can guess that the libretto was drawn from the same Gogol story as Rimsky-Korsakov's *Christmas* (Gogol's title). The latter was premiered ten years later, in 1886.

"Vakula the Smith" was Tchaikovsky's name for his first version (1874); the new label came with the definitive, much-revised score. That is what Francesca Zambello has staged for Wexford (in the original language), with admirable resource, plenty of colour, seven Russian and Ukrainian leads, a Russian conductor, and what seems to be half of the town's kids as little demons, wood sprites, village children and court pages. Bruno Schwegel's designs, wittily economical, conjure up a fine, wintry fairytale nimbus.

Not only Miss Zambello's clever imagination keeps the opera bubbling, but also Alexander Anisimov's light, confident hand with the music. If Tchaikovsky's score is less brightly channelled than Rimsky's, it is also more developed, more humanly expressive and often earthier too. The comedy reveals a more sympathetic ear, for folk accents - indeed, the composer rarely sounds as close-to-the-ground as he does here. The visiting Slav singers make the most of that. Especially in the grossly Gogolian scene where Solokha is beset by a succession of grizzled lechers: in Rimsky's opera that is only a cartoon, in Tchaikovsky's a lusty tour-de-force.

Roman Tsymbalsky's husky hero and Marina Levitt's fresh heroine, lyrical and wilful; Valentina Chervizhina's ripely irresistible witch-mother, with rolling eye and a hand with curved horns; and Leonid Bolotin's lubricious old Devil; Vladimir Matorin's stentorian bass for Oksana's father, a patriarchal ram, and Wjacheslav Wexelroder and Anatoly Lochak as Schoolmaster and His Excellency Potemkin (notably refined singing in his couplets) - all get their teeth firmly into their roles. Keith Latham's Mayor lives up to their enthusiastic style.

By comparison the orchestra sounded slightly backward, and Anisimov too polite about following his singers; stage and pit occasionally slipped out of synch. But one should not look this gift horse in the mouth: with all its trappings, quite opulent by Wexford standards, it prances and curvets to splendid effect.

Sponsored by Goodbody Stockbrokers & AIB Capital Markets. Festival continues until October 31.

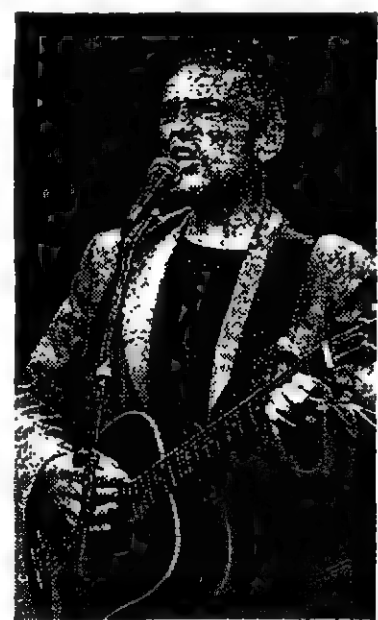
Theatre/Malcolm Rutherford

Looking Through a Glass Onion

There is a mildly biblical sound to *Looking Through a Glass Onion*, the new entertainment at the Criterion. "Glass Onion" is the name of a song by the late John Lennon; the looking through bit reminds one of St Paul, darkly. The sub-title is more accurate: *John Lennon in Word and Music*.

The show is probably for addicts: to others it may seem a shade dull. Lennon is not nearly as inspired a musician as his one-time Beatles colleagues, Paul McCartney. Nevertheless, he has a good story to tell. As the Beatles broke up, he went off with Yoko Ono to do his own thing. Someone else who did their own thing shot him dead in the street in New York.

I admire the discretion of the production. There are the sounds of a couple of gun shots at the beginning, but we do not move to the final killing. This is largely a one-man show, written and performed by John Waters as Lennon. Waters simply tells the tale and sings the songs. "We didn't come from Liverpool," he says



John Waters

home. He'll travel for a martyrdom." I've changed the gender, but that's the sort of thing *Glass Onion* is meant to be about: from Merseyside to London to the US. The religious touch in the title is not accidental.

Criterion Theatre. (071) 539 4485

Jazz/Garry Booth

Sonny's flights of fancy

Sonny Rollins, "saxophone colossus", is generally regarded as one of the most important (surviving) figures in modern jazz. With a considered technique and driven by awesome stamina and dexterity, the 54-year-old New Yorker has set the standard for saxophone improvisors for the last 40 years.

An annual visitor to Europe, he is fussy about the venues he plays and on Monday he brought the regular band and his rag bag of battered old tunes to the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. For the committed Rollins fans this will have been a source of great relief and joy: since the 1970s the Rollins repertoire has consisted of short but strong melodies which provide recognisable reference points for the saxophonist's flights of fancy. The band's role is strictly a as reliable support crew which provides some mid-air refuelling for the boss between aerobatics.

So it was on Monday. With a familiar light plan comprising old favourites such as "Duke of Iron", "Prelude to a Kiss" and "Long Ago and Faraway", Rollins roared matter-of-factly over his musical landscape like a veteran flying circus pilot. Breathtaking time changes like stall turns are executed effortlessly; now he loops around a fast moving melody with deadly grace, later ambushing the rhythm from behind before finally turning genial barrel rolls through a tin pan alley tune like "Tennessee Waltz".

The band looks skyward indulgently. Jerome Harris and Bob Grant on electric guitar and bass were solid and slavish while Cliff Anderson's trombone supplied buoyant fat notes to fill where Rollins took a breather. A new and welcome addition to the band came in the unlikely shape of percussionist Victor See Yuan whose Confucian appearance belied a splendidly kinetic way with congas and various shakers.

But if Rollins retains all the old firepower as well as the choce-away trickery in his display, the repertoire is beginning to sound all too familiar for a performer whose appeal has always been strongest heard live. The corny, jaunty C & W tinged "Tennessee Waltz" and his cypso trademark "Don't Stop the Carnival" brought loud cheers of approval from the full house, but that did not entirely quench the strong feeling of *déjà vu*.

INTERNATIONAL ARTS GUIDE

BONN

Oper Tomorrow and next Wed: Valery Panov's production of Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet*. Fri and next Tues: Cav and Pag. Sat: Ken Russell's production of *Salome*. Sun: Otello with Vladimir Atlantov and Renato Bruson (0228-773887)

BORDEAUX

Palais des Sports Tonight, tomorrow: Alain Lombard conducts Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine in works by Bartok, Dvorak, Ravel and Roussel, cello soloist Etienne Pécourt (5648 5854) Grand Théâtre Tonight: Ballet-Théâtre de Bordeaux presents two choreographies by Paolo Bortoluzzi, music by Vivaldi and Richard Strauss. Tomorrow: Balanchine programme (5648 5854)

COLOGNE

Opernhaus Tonight, Fri, Sun:

L'Incoronazione di Poppea with Patricia Schuman, Kathleen Kuhlmann and Curtis Rayam. Tomorrow, Sat: Billy Budd with Boje Skovhus and Victor Braun. Next Tues and Wed: TanzForum triple bill, choreography by Jochen Ulrich. Next Thurs: revival of *Tosca*. Oct 28: Ann Murray song recital (0221-221 8400)

COPENHAGEN

The main event this week at the Royal Theatre is the first night of a new production of Peter Grimes, conducted by Alexander Gibson, staged by David Radok, with Stig Fogh Andersen, Tina Kiberg and Norman Bailey (repeated Oct 25, 27, 30, Nov 1, 5, 11). Repertory includes Carmen and a mixed bill of choreographies by Balanchine, Lander and Laekken (tel 3314 1002 fax 3312 3692)

FRANKFURT

Oper Tonight, Sun, next Wed: Sylvain Cambreling conducts Peter Muehsbach's new production of *Wozzeck*, with Dale Duesing and Kristine Ciesinski. Sat: *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Mon: revival of *Così fan tutte* (069-236067) Alte Oper Tonight: Enoch zu Guttenberg conducts Munich Bach Collegium in Mozart opera overtures and arias. Sat: Vassili Sinski conducts Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra in works by Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky, with piano soloist Liya Zilberstein. Mon: Vladimir Feltsman plays Beethoven piano sonatas. Tues: Andrei Gavrilov plays

Bach (069-1340 400) Jahrhunderthalte Hoechst Fri, Sat, Sun: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. Tues: The Hollies (069-3601 240)

GOTHENBURG

Konserttheater Tonight: Hélène Grimaud plays piano works by Brahms. Tomorrow and Fri: Grimaud plays Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto in a Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra programme conducted by neeme Järvi, also featuring Stanhammar's Second Symphony (031-167000) Stora Teatern Tonight, Sat: Orpheus in the Underworld. Tomorrow, Fri, Sun, Tues: Robert North's new ballet *The Russian Story*, music by Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. Oct 30: first night of new production of *Rigoletto* (031-131300/031-136500)

HAMBURG

Staatsooper Tonight, Sun (also Oct 27, 31): Gard Albrecht conducts Günter Krämer's new production of *Götterdämmerung*, with Gabriele Schnaut, Siegfried Jerusalem, Matti Salminen and Günter von Kannon. Tomorrow: Schnittke's ballet *Peer Gynt*, choreographed by John Neumeier. Fri: *Il trovatore* with Julia Varady and Lando Bartolini. Sat: *Die Zauberflöte*. Next Tues: choreographies by Lubovich, Ek and Neumeier (040-351721)

LYON

Maguy Marin's production of Coppelius is revived tonight at Opéra de Lyon, with nine further performances over the next three weeks. The other production this month is Louis Elie's Offenbach adaptation, *Des Contes d'Hoffmann*, which can be seen on Fri, next Tues, Thurs and Sun. Both productions are conducted by Kent Nagano (7200 4545)

MUNICH

EUROPAMUSICAL Throughout October, orchestras from 31 European countries are giving daily concerts as part of the festival to show Europe's cultural diversity. Most take place at Gasteig. Tonight: James Conlon conducts Orchestre National de France in works by Florent Schmitt, Poulenc, Debussy and Ravel, with organ soloist Michel Bouvard. Tomorrow in Prinzregententheater: Athens State Orchestra. Fri in Prinzregententheater: Lefi Segerstam conducts Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra in works by Per Norgaard (b1923), Sibelius and Nielsen, with violin soloist Joshua Bell. Sat in Prinzregententheater: Lithuanian National Philharmonic Orchestra. Sun: Neeme Järvi conducts Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra in Nielsen and Stanhammar. Mon: Peter Maxwell Davies conducts Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Holst, Maxwell Davies and Vaughan Williams, violin soloist György Pauk. Tues: Antoni Wit conducts Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra in works by Wojciech Kilar (b1932), Wieniawski and Szymanowski. Oct 28: Vienna Philharmonic. Oct 31:

closing gala (089-4809 8614)

SAARLAND STATE OPERA

Staatsooper Tonight, Fri, Sun: Michael Boder conducts August Everding's production of Penderick's 1991 opera *Ubu Rex*, with Robert Tear and Doris Soffel. Sat and next Tues: *Le traviata*, with Tiziana Fabbricini (Sat) and Julia Varady (Tues). Next Wed: La bohème with Miriam Gauci and Thomas Hampson (089-221316)

OTHER EVENTS

Marlin Tumovsky conducts Prague Symphony Orchestra in works by Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven on Sat at Gasteig, with violin soloist Vadim Rapin (089-4809 8614). Deutsches Theater has a New York Harlem Theatre production of *Porgy and Bess*, daily except Mon (089-5523 4360). A new production of Thomas Bernhard's play *Am Ziel*, directed by Martin Meltke, opens at the Kammerspiele on Sat (089-2372 1328). Repertory at Residenztheater includes new productions of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* and Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* (089-225754)

OSLO

Konserttheater Tomorrow, next Thurs: Otello with Emmano Mauro. Sat: Stuttgart Ballet in choreographies by Scholz and Zanella (0711-221795) Liederhalle Sun, Mon: Hans Zender, whose new opera *Don Quixote de la Mancha* premiered at Staatstheater earlier this month, conducts orchestral works by Mendelssohn and Zander

STOCKHOLM

Royal Opera Tonight: Cav and Pag. Tomorrow, Sat afternoon, next Mon and Tues: Beryl Grey's production of *Sleeping Beauty* (tickets 08-248240 information 08-203515) Konserthuset Tonight, tomorrow: Heinz Wallberg conducts Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra in Bruckner's Fifth Symphony. Fri: Julian Bream guitar recital. Nov 7: Itzhak Perlman (tickets 08-102110 information 08-212520) Berwaldhallen Fri: Gary Bertini conducts Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Violin Concerto (Gil Shaham) and Third Symphony (08-784 1800)

STRASBOURG

Palais de la Musique Mon and Tues: Jörg-Peter Weigla conducts Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra in works by Mozart and Bruckner, with piano soloist Mikhael Rudy (8852 1845) Théâtre Municipal Tonight, Fri, Sun afternoon (also Nov 2, 4, 6, 8): Friedrich Halder conducts Tobias Richter's new Opéra du Rhin production of *Rigoletto* (8875 4823)

STUTTGART

Konserttheater Tomorrow, next Thurs: Otello with Emmano Mauro. Sat: Stuttgart Ballet in choreographies by Scholz and Zanella (0711-221795) Liederhalle Sun, Mon: Hans Zender, whose new opera *Don Quixote de la Mancha* premiered at Staatstheater earlier this month, conducts orchestral works by Mendelssohn and Zander

ARTS GUIDE

Monday: Berlin, New York and Paris. Tuesday: Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Chicago, Washington. Wednesday: France, Germany, Scandinavia. Thursday: Italy, Spain, Athens, London, Prague. Friday: Exhibitions Guide. European Cable and Satellite Business TV (All times are Central European Time) MONDAY TO THURSDAY Super Channel: European Business Today 0730; 2300 Monday Super Channel: West of Moscow 1230. Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 0630 Wednesday Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 2130 Thursday Sky News: Financial Times Reports 2030; 0130 Friday Super Channel: European Business Today 0730; 2330 Sky News: Financial Times Reports 0530 Saturday Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 0830 Sky News: West of Moscow 1130; 2230 Sunday Super Channel: West of Moscow 1830 Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 1900 Sky News: West of Moscow 0230; 0530 Sky News: Financial Times Reports 1330; 2030

Edward Mortimer



The Trilateral Commission, 20 years old this year, might plausibly claim to be the most influential non-governmental, non-profit-making organisation in the world. It brings together members of the political and business elites from north America, Europe and Japan. Its former members now in public service include President Bill Clinton and 20 senior figures in his administration; Mr Tsutomu Hata, the new Japanese foreign minister; and Mr Johan Jorgen Holst, the Norwegian foreign minister who played a vital role in brokering the recent Middle East peace accord. As networks go, that takes some beating.

The commission's three current chairmen - Count Otto Lambsdorff (former German economy minister), Mr Paul Volcker (former chairman of the US Federal Reserve) and Mr Akio Morita (founder of Sony) - are not just names on a letterhead. All three were present last weekend, and each made a personal report on the state of the economy in his region, at the commission's meeting in Barcelona - which was not even the annual plenary meeting, only a mid-term European regional one.

That meant it was essentially a gathering of the west European elite. (No central or east Europeans - not even a Greek or Turk.) One session was devoted to the host country, Spain, and another to the "Mediterranean dialogue" between Europe and the Arab world. But the short breakfast meeting on Russia was, to me, the most revealing - not so much about Russia as about western Europe. It was not very encouraging.

Mr Sergio Romano, who served as Italian ambassador in Moscow during the perestroika years, gave a short talk. His main concern was to pour cold water on the notion that President Boris Yeltsin's recent victory over parliament should be seen as a victory for either democracy or the market economy.

There would, he suggested, be "little democracy in Russia's near future". The hierarchy of president and parliament would be replaced by "a hierarchy of centre and periphery". There might be "more room for

Can-do versus no-do

Europe must act and not just sneer at US foreign policy failures

some economic measures along the lines originally tried by Gaidar [first deputy prime minister], but the array would be stronger and "if Russia is strong the countries of the Caucasus and central Asia will inevitably rally, as in the past, under Russian power" - a development which he personally considered "very positive".

In the discussion that followed some details of this analysis were questioned but the general tone of elegant scepticism, mixed with nostalgia for the simple certainties of great

European security no longer has the overriding urgency it once had for US policy-makers

power politics, was maintained - until Mr Richard Gardner, newly arrived US ambassador to Spain and one of the very few non-Europeans in the room, intervened. He alone pointed out that what happens in Russia is hardly a matter of indifference to the rest of the world and that, while no one can be sure of success, there are things that the west can and should be doing about it. In fact, he produced six:

- Head off nuclear proliferation, by holding former Soviet republics to, and helping them implement, their commitments under the strategic arms reduction treaties.
- Secure and where necessary decommission unsafe nuclear energy plants.
- Help Russia develop its oil and gas industries.
- Give technical assistance, bypassing central government as far as possible, in the skills a market economy requires.

- Set up an "enterprise fund" to finance privatisation and military conversion schemes, and help launch joint ventures.
- Give "political technical assistance" with such things as elections, rule of law and an independent judiciary.

This was back-of-the-envelope stuff, neither definitive nor original. In all the areas mentioned western efforts are already being made, though perhaps not enough, and none of them is simple to implement in the chaotic circumstances now prevailing. Mr Gardner was not claiming to have all the answers, but his tone was refreshing. Here spoke the representative of a power which has not given up - which still believes there are things that need doing in the world, and that something can be done.

Contrast that with the reported remarks of Mr Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, who that same day was telling Radio Luxembourg that the European Community was "drifting towards a free-trade zone, that is to say an English-style Europe", which in 15 years would lead to a break-up. Clearly Euro-pessimism is back with a vengeance, while the US, with a new administration, is at least trying to identify global problems and propose solutions to them.

Yet at the same time the remarks made over the weekend by Mr Clinton and his secretary of state, Warren Christopher, make it clear that the US now has limited resources, and limited patience, to devote to European problems. The cold war is over, and European security no longer has the overriding urgency it once had, either for US policy-makers or, still less, for the US public.

To sneer at the blunders of the Clinton administration, as it feels its way towards a foreign policy in a new and anarchic world, is easy enough. But it will not do Europe any good. What Europe needs is a dose of that much-derided "can-do" spirit that courses through American veins. If west Europeans would only come together in that spirit, rather than haggling endlessly over the "national" interests of producer lobbies, they could remind themselves that the breakdown of communism is an opportunity and a challenge, as well as a threat. Who knows, they might even work out a common strategy for dealing with it.

Local government is leading the government back into political trouble, only months after the death of the poll tax.

This time the issue is local government reorganisation. Plans to streamline local authorities in England to save on administration costs and improve accountability threaten to be both costly and unpopular with voters.

Launched enthusiastically two years ago by Mr Michael Heseltine, then environment secretary, the objective of the Independent Local Government Commission was to do away with the two-tier system of district and county councils which cover most of England outside the conurbations. Mr Heseltine thought local government would be cheaper, and easier for voters to understand, if all local services were provided by a single, all-purpose unitary authority.

Yet far from saving money, it now appears sweeping reorganisation along lines envisaged by Mr Heseltine will add to the cost of local government both in the transition period and afterwards. One estimate is that it could add £100 to each council tax bill in the first year of reorganisation, 1994, within 12 months of the next general election.

The new environment secretary, Mr John Gummer, confronted the issue last month by announcing the government might accept restructuring plans which were more expensive than the status quo. He also bolstered the review by shortening its timetable, and announcing that leaving "two tiers intact would be the exception". He apparently sees single-tier authorities as a cause worth paying for.

Besides courting trouble with voters, that judgment appalled employers, worried that they would be asked to foot the bill via business rates. Mr Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, told Mr Gummer last week that "we have always suspected that local government reorganisation could turn out to be an expensive hobby for the government". He added: "This looks to be an exercise in bureaucratic job creation across the country."

Worse for the government, Sir John Banham, the former CBI director-general appointed by Mr Heseltine to chair the Commission, takes a similar view. For him, the review is an opportunity to save money: if unitary authorities will not achieve that, he would be

Up the pole at the town hall

A review of UK local government could cost voters money - and the Tories votes, says John Authers

happy to retain the status quo.

His misgivings have been strengthened by Mori polls conducted for the commission in Derbyshire, Durham and Cleveland, the first mainland counties on which proposals have been published.

These suggest the "man in the street" has little or no enthusiasm for reform. In Durham, 54 per cent favoured the status quo. In Derbyshire the status quo was the single most popular option with 39 per cent. The most popular unitary option - splitting Derbyshire into two councils - was favoured by just 11 per cent.

"Artificial" counties created in 1974 - for instance Cleveland and Avon, which did not conform to historical county borders - may be an exception to the trend. Mori's Cleveland poll showed only 21 per cent favouring the status quo, and a conversion into three or four unitary authorities now seems likely. Big cities lacking their own strategic authority - such as Bristol, Leicester and Nottingham - can also be expected to muster enthusiasm.

The polling evidence has led Sir John to doubt the recommendations his commission has made for new, large single-tier authorities. He believes the Durham poll shows voters have been "thoroughly unimpressed" by the unitary options put to them.

Public opinion was to have driven the commission in its work, as Mr Heseltine sought to avoid the mistakes of the last reorganisation of local government in 1974. But it is the government that is ever more enthusiastic about reform.

Mr David Curry, local government minister, said this week the government might reject proposals which would protect the status quo. He added: "If I wanted the entire reorganisation to be determined by MORI, I would have asked them to carry it out in the first place."

Policy-makers even have an ideal size in mind for the single-tier authorities, according to Mr Martin Eastaig, chief executive of the commission. He says the latest guidance



from Whitehall suggests ministers believe the ideal population under a new single tier authority would be between 160,000 and 250,000.

The stance taken by Mr Gummer and Mr Curry is hard to explain. Mr Gummer argues it is "clearer where responsibility lies" if there is a single level of local government, adding unitary authorities "can reduce bureaucracy and costs, and improve the co-ordination and quality of services."

Yet research suggests that it is far from proven that unitary authorities are cheaper and more accountable. According to Professor John Stewart of the University of Birmingham's Institute of Local Government Studies, there is no evidence that the existence of two tiers of local government

confuses people over local authorities' responsibilities. Around 70 per cent of voters know that education is provided by counties - a figure not far behind those correctly identifying the prime minister.

Confusion over accountability is serious only for services provided by appointed government boards, such as hospitals - thought by 50 per cent to be run by counties, and by 30 per cent to be run by districts.

Professor Stewart points out that three-tier government is the norm in larger European countries. No EC country other than Luxembourg has unitary authorities. The extra tier allows the lowest level to be small and thus highly accountable. While the average English district has a population of more than 100,000, the

largest lowest-level authorities elsewhere in Europe have populations of 28,000 in Sweden and 17,000 in Denmark.

As for cost, re-organisation seems likely to increase council tax bills. Ernst & Young, accountants appointed by the commission, have found a marked "economy of scale". While councils serving a population of 50,000 or less needed more than five administrative staff per 1,000 population, only 3.5 were needed for a population of 300,000. Less than three were needed in councils with a population of more than 1m. Replacing a two-tier system with small unitary authorities could thus increase total staff costs.

There would also be transitional expenses. The Association of County Councils estimates that converting each county into three unitary authorities - roughly the option the government has in mind - would cost about £27.3m per county in new town halls, redundancy bills, and other transitional costs. The Department of the Environment has left open the option that council taxpayers should foot this bill, possibly adding more than £100 per head to council tax bills.

Against this background, Mr Major's decision in July to reject a proposal from the department for authorities to "opt in" to the review process if local people were dissatisfied with the status quo looks like a mistake. An "opt in" process would have allowed a less ambitious review of council boundaries, much as the Boundary Commission periodically redraws parliamentary boundaries. Unpopular "artificial" counties, such as Avon and Humberside, might then be disbanded, while Yorkshiremen could reclaim their ridings and Bristol might become a city in full control of all its services. Areas happy with the two-tier structure could carry on undisturbed.

Mr Major felt a voluntary review would encourage authorities in Wales and Scotland - where restructuring plans have been imposed without formal consultation - to resist change; moreover, this would show lack of confidence in a policy seen as a vote-winner in the last general election.

But the new, accelerated review could lose votes. If the commission finishes its work by the end of next year, the new councils, with their higher council tax bills, should come into being in May 1998. The next general election must be held by April 1997.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Fax 071 873 5938. Letters transmitted should be clearly typed and not hand written. Please set fax for finest resolution

EC research programmes far from 'failed'

From Prof Robin Whitty.

Sir, Your editorial, "Innovation in Europe" (October 14), reflects the same confusion and short-termism which might be about to panic some governments out of future funding for EC research and development programmes. You accuse the EC of having "squandered" money on "failed" prestige projects such as... the JESSI microchip scheme; yet you stress that evidence about the results of the programmes is "far from conclusive".

Large programmes such as Esprit and JESSI, in the past, the UK's Alvey, do not "fail". JESSI is alive and well, as a quick call to the JESSI office in Munich, or to the Department of Trade and Industry, would confirm. It has

been restructured and is now producing world-class results, helping some major European companies to enter into equal-status ventures with US and Japanese companies at the forefront of microchip technology. Or why not look at Europe's success in telecommunications and systems, rather than concentrating on computers and microchips? In any case, success or failure in these programmes is, as an FT advert might remind us, "not black and white".

The outputs of research and development filter down over a long period of time. The Alvey programme is scoring technological successes now, five years since its conclusion, that probably could not have been predicted while the programme

was running, even by the scientists involved. Esprit will certainly be able to demonstrate similar benefits, the more so because the EC has put considerable thought into nurturing the take-up of its R&D, for example through the Value and Esprit programmes.

In 1988 there were more than 3,000 scientists and engineers working on Esprit projects. How can we calculate the potential damage, five years later, of not having fostered and trained our technology workforce in this way? Esprit has cost the EC well over £200bn in funding, bringing us on a par with the US in terms of percentage expenditure on R&D. How can Europe hope to be taken seriously in information technology without showing

such commitment?

Of course, the individual programmes must be, and are being, continuously assessed and adjusted in focus and implementation. Things could be made much easier for small and medium-sized enterprises, for example; perhaps more money should be spent on running the programmes and less on individual projects within them. But the vote-losing potential of spending large amounts of money on our technological future is probably not a very helpful or enlightening parameter in the equation. Robin Whitty, director, Centre for Systems and Software Engineering, South Bank University, London SE1 0AA

Odd comment on ITV cartels

From Mr Peter Jobson.

Sir, In his letter of October 13, the director-general of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers opposes changes to the ITV ownership rules on the grounds that "advertisers do not want to see new cartels and monopolies develop". This is an odd observation, since the rules on airtime sales have for some time past allowed any single sales point to sell up to 25 per cent of the ITV market. At present, there are five sales points selling ITV, and there are no proposals to reduce their number.

With respect to his concerns about regional programmes within the 15 licence areas of ITV, the Independent Television Commission has an effective

Freight ignored in assessing Eurotunnel's prospects

From Mr Barry Worthington.

Sir, I would like to correct a misconception in the Lex column regarding Eurotunnel ("Tunnel vision", October 12). As any transport student would tell you, Eurotunnel is not a glorified fixed-link version of a roll-on-roll-off ferry, nor is it a short-haul flight.

Half the capacity is dedicated to international rail traffic, yet one does not hear of this side of the business, only of "Le Shuttle" - a reflection on whoever does the marketing for "Eurostar".

The important point is that this project will connect the UK with a growing continental

TGV system, and will revolutionise freight handling. No sane person will change a mode of transport twice when there is a direct and fast city centre to city centre service. No sane businessman will send goods via ship in the face of a simpler freight alternative that delivers door-to-door within 24 hours.

On this basis, the demands upon tunnel capacity will grow, and it is likely that a second one will be in the planning stage by the turn of the century.

Barry Worthington, 6 Garforth Avenue, Ancoats, Manchester M4 6LA

Banking on efficiency formula

From Mr Philip Greening-Jackson.

Sir, I would ask your readers to join me in a little game. Next time you are waiting in a bank queue, work out the bank's Service Score (ss). This is calculated by applying the following formula:

CP/CA x CW = SS, where CP=number of possible cashiers (ie, number of windows), CA=actual number of cashiers working, CW=number of customers waiting in the queue. I would like to start the competition with NatWest Liver-

pool Fruit Exchange. At 11.20 on October 15 it scored: CP=5, CA=2, CW=13,

giving a value to SS of 32.5. This will take some beating, but I am confident that the banks will rise to the challenge.

Perhaps the banking ombudsman could be prevailed upon to donate a small prize. Philip Greening-Jackson, Sloan and Company, chartered accountants, Stanley Court, 19-23 Stanley Street, Liverpool L1 6AA

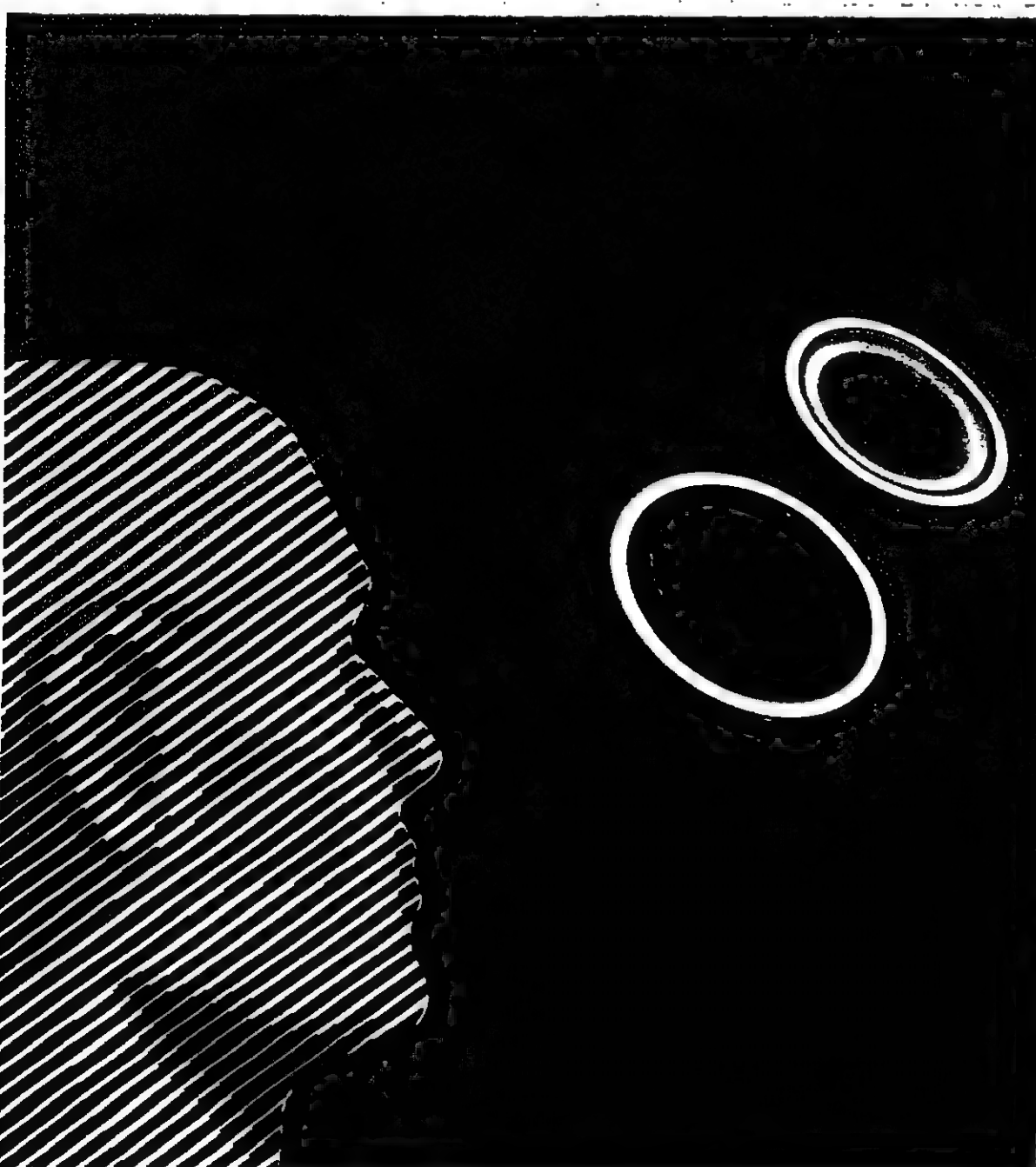
Figuring out the Gatt

From Mr Ian Goldin.

Sir, The estimate of annual gains of at least \$313bn (in 1992 dollars) which will accrue by 2003 from a successful completion of the Uruguay Round has been discussed in a recent FT editorial ("Endgame in the Gatt", September 29) and in commentaries by David Dodwell (World Trade News, September 30), Frances Williams (World Trade News, September 30) and Samuel Brittan ("Where Gatt's \$200bn really comes from", October 4).

Your readers may be forgiven for finding it difficult to identify the source of these numbers. The one citation that has been given (September 30) was erroneous as it referred to an earlier publication I co-authored rather than the relevant recently released volume.

The book which summarises the results of the four-year modelling collaboration between the OECD Development Centre and the World Bank is published jointly by OECD and the World Bank under the title, *Trade Liberalisation: Global Economic Implications*, by Ian Goldin, Olin Knudsen and Dominique van der Mensbrugghe. Ian Goldin, senior economist, World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433, US



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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Wednesday October 20 1993

The question for Mr Clarke

THE FIRST unified Budget, due in November, is also Mr Kenneth Clarke's first Budget. The chancellor must stamp his mark on economic strategy.

The biggest question he faces is whether further fiscal adjustments are required, beyond those announced by Mr Norman Lamont last March. The former chancellor introduced a fiscal "wedge", which is set to raise £6.7bn (1 per cent of gross domestic product) in 1994-95 and £10.3bn in 1995-96. Even so the public sector borrowing requirement would, according to the Treasury's forecasts, only decline from 9 per cent of GDP (excluding privatisation proceeds) this year to the still high level of 4 per cent in 1997-98.

The "green budget" put forward yesterday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in collaboration with Goldman Sachs indicates that further action is probably needed. Indeed, it notes that on some measures the present fiscal position is worse than it has been in peacetime: the general government "primary" deficit - the deficit less net interest - will peak at close to 6 per cent of GDP; the "real" Budget deficit - the deficit adjusted for inflation - is higher still; and the ratio of public debt to GDP is set to double in half a decade.

There are two gleams of light in this otherwise sombre picture: the first is that the inflation of the 1970s and the fiscal surpluses of the late 1980s brought the ratio of gross public sector debt to GDP to the exceptionally low level of 36 per cent in the early 1990s, from over 60 per cent 20 years before. The second is that the economy is in recovery, which should allow it several years of above-trend growth.

The authors of the green budget argue that if the economy were to recover at 3 per cent a year, while public spending were to grow at 2 per cent in real terms (which is what happened at a comparable stage of the last cycle), the PSBR could fall to 0.5 per cent of GDP by 1997-98. Even this would not be low enough to stabilise the ratio of public sector debt to GDP, forecast to be just over 50 per cent at that time, if the inflation rate is also to fall within the government's target of 1-4 per cent. But the required fiscal adjustment would be modest, no more than about 1 per cent of GDP.

It would be possible to argue for a higher peak ratio of debt to GDP. But this would be risky, since the primary surplus ultimately required to stabilise the ratio of public debt to GDP increases with that ratio whenever the real interest rate exceeds the real growth of the economy.

The most important objection to doing nothing more is that 3 per cent economic growth, while possible, is far from certain. If things were to go wrong, the government could find itself under severe pressure to raise taxes in the run-up to the next election.

Some argue that further fiscal adjustment would itself delay recovery and so make the fiscal position still worse in the medium term. That would be a powerful argument if it were impossible or unwise to use monetary policy to offset fiscal tightening.

Early action on the fiscal position, offset by monetary loosening, might even make it easier to sustain the desired rate of growth. The reason for the deterioration in the fiscal position was the extraordinary tightness of monetary policy during the period of ERM membership. This needed to be rebalanced. To an extent, it has been. But the rebalancing may have to go further if growth is to be sustained without an explosive increase in the external deficit. A controlled depreciation now, when the economy has plenty of slack, would be far better than an uncontrollable one later.

Taking no further fiscal action might work out, but only if everything were to turn out well. Only a foolhardy chancellor would bet on that. The probability is that a further fiscal adjustment will be required. Politics suggest the adjustment should come sooner rather than later. Economics suggest there is no great merit in delay. Mr Clarke should go for higher taxes and lower interest rates.

Italian industry is bothered about its image these days, and with good reason. The casual visitor need only switch on the TV or pick up a newspaper to be confronted by a public relations disaster of the first magnitude: yet more executive arrests and suicides, yet more Mafia killings, yet more strikes.

Oddly enough, though, Italian industry is in some ways doing rather well. This year, Italy is headed for its first trade surplus since the war. In the first six months, exports were up nearly 20 per cent. The severe domestic recession means profits are down; but the Italian stock market - for what it is worth - has been one of Europe's star performers this year.

Part of the paradox is easily explained. Amid the general mayhem of the corruption scandal which has enveloped business and government, Italian employers have enjoyed one remarkable piece of luck. For decades, they had been obliged to raise wages in line with inflation - the so-called *scala mobile* system. In July of last year, the *scala mobile* was abolished. Two months later, Italy left the European exchange rate mechanism and the lira was devalued by more than 20 per cent.

But it was Italy's membership of the ERM which had caused the *scala mobile* to be abolished in the first place. The lethal combination of rising wages and a fixed currency gave employers the ammunition to demonstrate that the old system was unsustainable. But just as that burden was removed, so too was the currency straitjacket. Italian industry is thus enjoying the best of both worlds.

Mr Giorgio Garuzzo, chief operations officer of Fiat, says: "Between 1987 and 1991, the cost of labour in Italy went up by 9-10 per cent a year, nearly twice the rate of France or Germany. Since the lira was not devaluing, we lost 20 or 30 percentage points of competitiveness in that period. So we fought against the *scala mobile*, and we won. Then devaluation came, and overnight we were back to the economics of 1987. We had regained all the ground we'd lost."

The economic situation is thus in one sense surprisingly benign. As befits a country whose prime minister, Mr Carlo Ciampi, is a former governor of the central bank, inflation is running at a mere 4.3 per cent, more than a full percentage point down from a year ago despite devaluation. In the state-owned industries, wage rises are running at practically zero. How long this will last is another matter. As a senior Italian official remarks: "The level of competitiveness of Italian goods is absolutely exceptional at present. This is another way of saying the lira is undervalued."

Tony Jackson explains why, behind the bribery scandals and strikes, Italian industry is doing rather well

No tragedy despite dramatics

But there may be broader reasons for not taking the headlines at face value. Mr Innocenzo Cipolletta, director general of the employers' federation, Confindustria, says: "In a Latin country like Italy, changes are always dramatic. Whenever you change, you are in crisis."

And, he argues, Italy has been here before. "In the 1970s, we had inflation of 20 per cent, huge balance of payments deficits, an IMF loan, a political crisis and a dramatic rise in terrorism. Nobody would have given a lira for our chances." In the event, of course, the 1980s proved a boom time for Italian capitalism, for which it is only now paying the price.

This argument is part of a wider thesis, which says the Italian economy has a persistent habit of lagging behind the rest of Europe and then catching up in bursts. The catch-up phases, such as the late 1950s and most of the 1980s, are euphoric. The economy is now in one of the corresponding downswings, characterised by deep gloom and - as Mr Cipolletta puts it - the conviction that Italy is merely the most advanced of the developing countries.

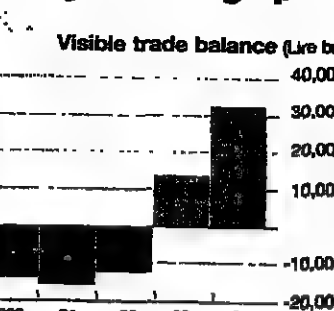
At the level of individual industries, the process of lag and catch-up is neatly illustrated by Fiat. Conventional wisdom says that if Europe has one carmaker too many, Fiat - with its unproductive plant and lacklustre models - could well be it. But Fiat's new plant at Melfi, in the lunar landscape of Basilicata in southern Italy, is startlingly modern. Its layout is revolutionary, its level of automation extreme. Its claimed productivity - 70 vehicles per worker per year - is very nearly the highest in the world. Its remote site was chosen partly because the local workforce had no previous knowledge of the car industry. The oldest man in the plant, the works director, is just 35.

Italy is catching up in another sense. For many decades, the economy has been cursed with an enormous and inefficient state-owned industrial sector. Great chunks of it, from banking to steel, are now to be privatised. The process is contentious, since privatisation is a potential weapon against corruption and therefore resisted by the old guard.

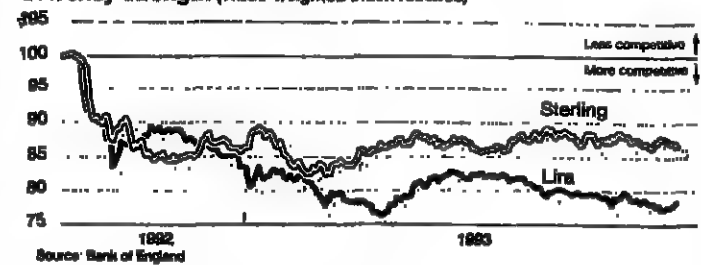


Prime minister Carlo Ciampi

Italy: catching up

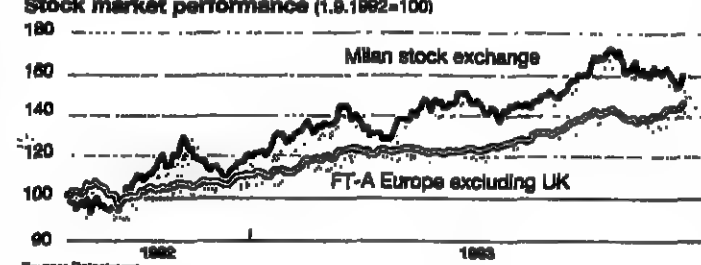


Currency strength (Trade-weighted index rebased)



Source: Bank of England

Stock market performance (1.8.1992=100)



Source: Datastream

But it seems unlikely that Italy can resist the European privatisation vogue: and in any case, the hugely indebted Italian state badly needs the cash.

This is not to deny that the private sector has a stiff job ahead of it. For a start, the corruption scandal - known locally as *Tangentopoli* ("Bribe Cities") - has done serious harm, even if some industrialists are inclined to shrug it off. The damage, says Mr Cipolletta, has been enormous. Or perhaps not, according to a senior colleague at Confindustria, Mr Rosolino Orlando. "Companies weren't

involved in *Tangentopoli*," Mr Orlando says. "People were. If you want to buy an Italian machine tool or Italian textiles, you don't think about *Tangentopoli*. You don't buy images, you buy products. You buy on price and service."

Behind this inconsistency is a resentful feeling among many industrialists that they were in some sense victims of the political system. The ambivalence is well expressed by Mr Garuzzo of Fiat, who at one point had a warrant out for his arrest over Fiat's involvement. "This is a welcome process," he says. "The process of doing busi-

ness with the state must be transparent. If the scandals are the price of righting the situation, the scandals are welcome. But if the scale of it was not known, its existence was common knowledge. So perhaps we should clean our laundry less publicly."

Even without the corruption scandal, the image problem remains. Take, for instance, labour relations. In recent months there has been a recurrence of that old Italian bugbear, the rail strike. There has also been a particularly nasty conflict at a state-owned chemical plant at Crotona, in Italy's deep south.

Employers in the private sector take a predictably hard line on this. "We have to pass through a period of strikes over the next year," says Mr Cipolletta of Confindustria. "If not, you can't change anything. You can't get rid of 50,000 teachers without causing tension in the educational system. The rail strike going on at present is a good strike."

As for the Crotona dispute, employers say, this is a typical instance of managerial incompetence in state-run industries. For northern managers, there is a further sub-text: Crotona is in the south, so what else can you expect?

This is a reminder of yet another persistent problem: the regional tensions within the Italian state. In the wealthy regions of the industrial north, there is deep resentment over the cost of propping up the impoverished south. But it is one thing for northern industrialists to argue - as they do - that the south should forget industry and concentrate on tourism and agriculture. It is another to go along with more extreme talk of separatism, which from a business viewpoint is a prescription for chaos.

Dr Roberto Tronchetti Provera, vice-chairman of the Lombard employers' federation, based in Milan, says: "Separatism would solve nothing. Perhaps we would pay less taxes, but we need the southern market. Our members are working not just in the European single market but in the domestic market. We need rules to allow them to operate properly within it."

But however formidable the list of problems, the case for optimism remains. None of the issues is new; the point is that they are all being addressed at once. The process is both painful and humbling. But one cannot quite dismiss Dr Tronchetti Provera when he claims: "Italian companies will come out of this period much stronger than before. Not in the near future, but in the medium term, Italy will be a very interesting area."

Bhutto revisited

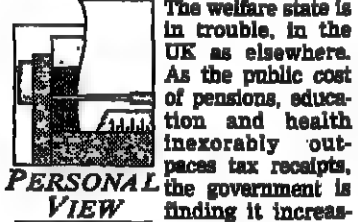
MS BENAZIR BHUTTO's first term as Pakistan's prime minister from 1988 to 1990 was a catalogue of disasters born of her own inexperience and of hostility on the part of the country's political and military establishments. The second chance that began yesterday for unalloyed rejoicing. There are, however, reasons to suppose that this time could be different, and that Pakistan is not quite the same place that she attempted to rule five years ago.

The first is that the Pakistani elite may have learnt something from the turmoil the country has just been through. After a year of wrangling between opposition, government and president, Pakistan this month managed to stage something like a free and fair general election. Although the result was a hung parliament, Ms Bhutto's mandate now seems clear enough, thanks to support from small parties. Her main opponent, Mr Nawaz Sharif, has also promised to respect the result. The army, which with the then president brought Ms Bhutto down last time, now seems prepared to play a more neutral role. And while the danger persists of destabilising constitutional disputes between the government and the president,

who is to be elected separately next month, all must now be aware that such battles only lead to a blind alley.

Second, Ms Bhutto herself ought this time to be in a stronger position both to diagnose her country's political and economic ills and to treat them, largely thanks to the remarkable interim presidency of Mr Moen Qureshi. During barely three months in office, Mr Qureshi, spurred on by a foreign exchange crisis, set about tackling the networks of political and financial patronage that lie at the heart of Pakistan's malaise - vowing to tax the country's farmers, for example, and empowering state-owned banks to redeem bad loans they had been forced to make to politicians and powerful businessmen.

The economic emergency persists and Ms Bhutto has promised to continue with reforms needed to qualify for a three-year programme of International Monetary Fund loans, as well as to try to end Pakistan's international isolation. None of this will be easy, least of all in a fragile coalition government. But at least Ms Bhutto now knows what she has to do, and has a freer hand than she had before to do it.



PERSONAL VIEW

honour its commitments to the elderly, the young, and the ill. And in spite of the rise in welfare spending, the disparity between rich and poor has widened over the past decade.

Under the current system of universal benefits large amounts are spent on people who are already well off. It is widely believed that the only alternative is to channel welfare state services to the poor through means tests, taxes on pensions, and the like. This would reduce poor people's incentive to become self-reliant and erode the middle class's political support for the welfare state.

There is, however, another alternative, one that reduces the government's welfare state spending with-

out making the poor or the affluent worse. It is my welfare opt-out programme, which gives people the option of relinquishing their entitlements to certain publicly provided welfare state services in return for a rebate. The size of the rebate would depend on the cost of the relinquished entitlements. The average per capita cost would be computed for different groups of people, depending on their income, age, sex, marital status, and other determinants of welfare state demands.

This rebate would take the form of a claim against the government amounting to 70 per cent of the cost of the relinquished entitlements, for each group of people. Where the cost accrues in the future (such as pensions for people currently of working age), the claim would take the form of government bonds with an average maturity commensurate with the costs; where the costs accrue at present (such as education for people with school-age children), it would amount to an immediate tax reduction. Of course, the option would have to be tied to compulsory insurance against sickness, disability, and old age.

That would leave 30 per cent of the funds to cover the "deadweight loss" arising because people consuming few services are more likely to choose the opt-out option. By specifying the characteristics of each opt-out group sufficiently narrowly, the deadweight loss could be reduced below 30 per cent of the available funds, leaving a surplus to

The programme would give the right incentive to choose between public and private services

improve the state-provided services. To get a rough indication of how this programme would work, observe that over the past decade, the government's national insurance spending (excluding unemployment benefits) was about 8.2 per cent of UK gross domestic product minus total central government revenue. Thus people who relinquished their entitlement to publicly provided retirement pensions

would qualify for a rebate amounting to about 5.7 per cent of their income, on average. By the same calculation, people who gave up their National Health Service entitlement would get a 5.3 per cent income increase, and those not taking advantage of publicly provided education would receive a 4.6 per cent rise in income.

Some say that allowing people to leave the welfare state system would turn it into a poverty programme. But this argument does not apply here. There would be no incentive for the affluent to opt out while the poor stay in. Those consuming few welfare state services would receive a small rebate and thus have a small incentive to opt out. And since the rebate is tied to the cost of the state-provided services those who opt out would have no incentive to vote for a run-down of the state sector.

The welfare opt-out programme would give people the right incentive for choosing between public and private provision of welfare state services. The people who opt out would be the ones whose partic-

ular needs could be met more adequately through private providers. Given the enormous diversity of needs and the inevitable standardisation of publicly provided services, it is inevitable that such people should exist. So the public and private welfare state systems would assist side by side, each providing services in which they have a comparative advantage. The resulting competition would give both an incentive to become more efficient.

Here is a way for the government to reduce its spending without hurting anyone. The reduction in distortionary tax-and-transfer arrangements among middle class groups should gradually generate enough savings to the government - through taxes from new private welfare state providers - to permit improved state provision.

Dennis J. Snower

The author is professor of economics, Birkbeck College, University of London, and programme director, Centre for Economic Policy Research

Credit card war

THE UK credit card market is hotting up. Vauxhall's launch yesterday of credit cards offering discounts on the purchase of its cars and comparatively low interest rates is the biggest threat so far to a business traditionally dominated by clearing banks. Vauxhall clearly means to make an impact. A similar card launched in the US by General Motors, its parent, has attracted 8m customers in just over a year.

Moreover, Vauxhall is not on its own. Financial services group Save & Prosper recently introduced a card with an interest rate of 14.6 per cent, much less than the 23 per cent average. MBNA, a US bank, is planning to base its European credit card operations in the UK. Other non-financial companies with Ford, General Electric and American Telephone & Telegraph touted as likely candidates - are expected to follow Vauxhall's lead.

This process promises advantages for both new entrants and consumers. For a company like Vauxhall, a credit card could be a powerful tool to build brand loyalty. Users will have an incentive to buy Vauxhall cars rather than those made by rivals. For customers, stiffer competition should bring lower interest

rates as well as a wider variety of services. While credit card users have not been badly served by the clearing banks, there have been complaints. Chief among these are the introduction of annual credit card fees in the past few years and a switch to charging interest from the date of the transaction instead of the date of the statement. To this is added the constant gripe that interest rates are much higher than base rates.

Consumers themselves are partly to blame for not shopping around more vigorously. Research shows that most do not know what interest charge they pay. But banks and building societies are also to blame in that they have generally failed to differentiate their services, so offering consumers little opportunity to exercise choice. This in turn largely reflects lack of initiative.

There is, however, one anti-competitive practice which could usefully be swept away: Visa and Mastercard, the dominant credit card networks, generally do not admit non-banks to their club. Vauxhall has avoided this restriction by using the services of HFC Bank. But this is cumbersome. If the market is to develop to its full potential, credit card clubs should be pressed to open their doors.

Down and out in DC

Cost overruns on the World Bank's headquarters building in Washington - some \$100m above the original \$180m - do not seem to have made the bank one wit more modest when it comes to doling out advice to third world governments on how to handle their finances.

Some of the staff seem to be equally challenged in the humility department. Take Armeane Choksi, vice-president for human resources and development operations policy who, with his wife, is selling the Chevy Chase home to move into one they are now having built.

A full-page colour ad in Washingtonian magazine describes in painful detail the heartbreak involved in moving house. "She will miss their long private drive, the bright and open floor plan and the wonderful decks overlooking the majestic trees."

"He'll remember the luxurious master suite complete with Jacuzzi, skylight, separate shower, and circular windows, the grand first floor library with fireplace, and the impressive entry foyer. They'll both miss the dumbwaiter which carries groceries direct into the kitchen."

The ad also says that this luxurious dwelling boasts "walls

of glass, soaring ceilings and enormous room sizes".

No way station

Pugnacious Gerald Corrigan, who captained the New York Fed through many a market crisis, is happiest in the very thick of things.

So what on earth is he doing emerging from Goldman Sachs to run "special projects", head the bank's group of outside advisers and gladhand important clients - guaranteeing himself everything, in fact, except proximity to the epicentre of one of Wall Street's leading investment banks?

The 53-year-old former Fed chief, who will no doubt be more than generously remunerated, sees his position as "flexible but highly substantive".

Does that mean he is being lined up as a future chairman? He laughs off the suggestion, as does Goldman chairman Stephen Friedman, who is nevertheless expecting his new recruit to view this as "home for his career, not a way station".

However special the deal, meanwhile, Corrigan does not come in as one of the fabled general partners, who even in 1991, before Wall Street's current bonanza started, had a share in profits reckoned to be \$1.15bn.

Eying the long list of partners to which his name will not be appended Corrigan claims, a trifle unconvincedly, to be "just a



footnote.

Franc forte

Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France, proudly unveiled a new series of banknotes yesterday, starting with a FF50 bill. Unsurprisingly, he had a ready reply to the query that now might seem an undiplomatic moment to signal such a national, as opposed to European, monetary manoeuvre. The new notes, needless to say, complement European monetary union, he explained, reflecting "a convergence" with Dutch and German designs. Indeed, it would

all facilitate the design of an eventual Euro note, he went on. The new FF50 note displays Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the aviator and writer. It also has no less than four new anti-forgery devices, three of which incorporate images taken from the aviator's writings.

"This is our latest move in the endless technological race with counterfeiters," Trichet boasted. If only exchange rate policy were as simple as banknotes. Trichet was also at pains to point out the mendacity of press suggestions that the French government is weakening in its determination to keep the franc strong.

But that was an area of forgery over which he ruefully admitted to having no control.

Bodyguard

Keeping up with the Joneses, continued. For a mere \$45,000 (you supply the car) you can have your very own "personal security vehicle".

The O'Garra-Hess & Eisenhart Armoring Company, an Ohio-based manufacturer of armoured limousines for VIPs, is offering wraparound lightweight composite armour and plastic-reinforced glass windows for the man in the street worried about car robberies and random violence.

The company says its armour will stop bullets from .38 calibre and 9mm handguns and machine

pistols - standard street-gear for your average US criminal. Optional add-ons include tyres that keep working when riddled with bullets and an explosion-proof fuel tank. And the joy of it all is that you do not need to modify the engine, brakes or suspension because the weight is kept down by not reinforcing the floor or roof.

Doesn't that leave the driver vulnerable? Not at all: "You only need do the roof to stop snipers up high and the floor from blasts underneath. Those have not been a problem here, yet," says a spokesman.

Wrong-footed

Could it be that one of the problems with British soccer is that the team has not been threatened with a rocket for bad performance? In Iraq they do things differently. When the team lost the first game of this week's Asian World Cup round-robin qualifier in Qatar 2-3 to North Korea, the cabinet, chaired by Saddam Hussein's son Uday, immediately sacked the team coaches and warned an official statement, would be "passed to an investigation commission" - which, coming from the Iraqi government, has an infinitely more sinister ring than, say, an FA tribunal. Last night the Iraqis were due to take on South Korea. Trembling, probably.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Wednesday October 20 1993

Brossette BTI
Numéro un en France
WOLSELEY
Au d'éc de la

Taiwan seeks new talks over Bae aircraft deal

By Dennis Engharsh and Daniel Green in Taipei

TAIWAN Aerospace Corporation is seeking a fresh start to negotiations with British Aerospace over their troubled and long drawn-out efforts to set up a joint venture to manufacture regional jets.

"Under the structure of the original initialled agreement, there is no way for the two sides to break through their impasse. The best way would be to start new talks," Mr George Liu, senior vice-president and TAC spokesman, said yesterday.

The Taiwan side will also press its demand for a legal commitment from Bae to co-develop an advanced two-engine passenger jet when talks between TAC and Mr John Cahill, Bae chairman, begin today.

Mr Cahill is leading a team of Bae technical and financial specialists seeking to salvage the joint venture proposal which is an integral part of the company's overall restructuring and recovery strategy.

Collapse of the Taiwanese

joint-venture project could lead to some 3,000 job losses at Bae's Woodford plant, near Manchester, if the UK group decides it has no alternative but to halt its regional jet activities.

The company, however, has indicated in recent days it could continue regional jet activities in the UK even if the Taiwan deal fell through. But many aerospace industry analysts believe the future of these operations would be severely compromised if Mr Cahill fails in his effort to revive the joint venture proposal.

Mr Cahill's team yesterday made contact with Mr David Howell, chairman of the UK House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee who also arrived in Taipei last night.

Mr Richard Needham, the UK trade minister, is due to arrive today with a delegation of UK industrialists.

Mr Cahill and Mr Earle Hou, TAC chairman, are expected to meet today to see if discussions can be resumed.

Talks last month collapsed after TAC called on Bae to pro-

vide a detailed written commitment to co-develop an advanced two-engine "RJX" regional passenger jet, in addition to the existing RJ aircraft based on the Bae 146 four-engine regional airliner. Such a project could entail research and development costs of about £1bn (\$1.5bn).

Bae is also seeking assurances that the TAC board and management will be strengthened. Mr Denny Ko, who signed the original agreement with Bae, resigned this month as president. Mr Hou has also indicated he wants to resign as chairman.

Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs renewed its support for TAC to continue talks with Bae in a written statement yesterday. "The government believes this project will be beneficial in upgrading our aerospace industry. Therefore, we have provided proper assistance and necessary support. However, at present, the two sides still have a gap in understanding and need to continue to seek consensus."

Boeing rival, Page 7

Air France strikers bring Paris airports to standstill

By John Ridding in Paris

STRIKING Air France workers brought chaos to the two main airports in Paris yesterday, blocking runways and forcing flights to be cancelled for much of the afternoon.

The protests are the most serious to be launched against the loss-making airline's recovery plan, which was announced last month. The plan involves the loss of 4,000 jobs by the end of next year and the implementation of economy measures, including reduced overtime pay.

Both Charles De Gaulle and Orly airports were paralysed by the protests, although Orly was reopened in the afternoon after three hours. However, Aéroports de Paris, the airport authority, said the situation remained very difficult at Orly because of the backlog of disrupted flights, while Charles De Gaulle remained closed.

Air France said it was unclear what the situation would be today. But he said it was likely that flights serving destinations in Europe, Turkey and Israel would be cancelled. Air France said that between five and 10 long-haul flights were expected to operate from Charles De Gaulle tomorrow.

Mr Bernard Attali, Air France chairman, condemned the protests, spearheaded by two union federations, Force Ouvrière and the leftwing Confédération du Travail. He said the cancelled flights yesterday would cost the airline about FF770m (\$12.4m).

Mr Attali has argued that the recovery plan is the only way to ensure the survival of Air France, which lost FF73.5bn in the first half of the year. He said the protests would not affect the implementation of the plan and that involuntary redundancies would be kept to a minimum.

"One can understand the worries of our personnel, but nothing can excuse the damage to the company," Mr Attali said in a statement to employees. "These actions will weaken the company and deal it a serious blow at the worst time."

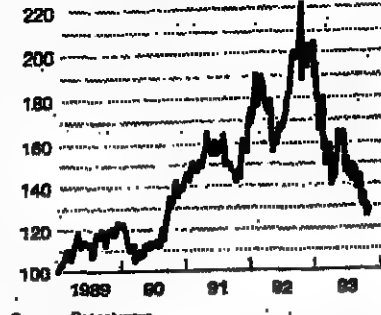
THE LEX COLUMN

SB's dilute tonic

FT-SE index: 3425.6 (-8.0)

SmithKline Beecham

Share price relative to the FT-A All-Share Index



Source: Datastream

to some £40bn. The authorities are so far ahead of the actual funding need that they can afford to take a breather. Once again they are spared the need for a long-dated issue.

The strength of long-dated gilts probably owes as much to shortage of supply as to a conviction that inflation is permanently under control. Similarly, short gilts are buoyed by expectations of lower base rates, which, incidentally, should ensure the success of this month's auction. The market's benign mood could change if the chancellor pitches his budget message wrong. Balancing fiscal tightening with interest rate cuts is no easy matter when underlying inflation may be pushing on its 4 per cent ceiling next spring. A test of Mr Clarke's success may be whether the Bank feels able to slip in another auction between the Budget and Christmas.

Wolseley

Wolseley is a modest company with little to be modest about. Despite setbacks in California and sticky progress in France, Wolseley still succeeded in lifting earnings per share by 28 per cent last year. Good stock control, a strong balance sheet and promising acquisitions leave it well placed for further growth. Although a 6 per cent dividend increase looks meagre against earnings growth, its 2.5 times cover should enable the company to sustain a progressive pay-out policy, which is more than can be said for many in the building materials sector.

The main irritation, though, concerns Wolseley's recent penchant for issuing paper. The company has effectively staged a one-for-four rights

issue on the quiet by seeping shares into the market through placings. Even here, though, it can perhaps be excused. Reasonably enough, Wolseley argues acquisitive growth should be financed with equity and organic growth with cash. So far, at least, the new shares have been used to buy earnings-enhancing assets.

Nevertheless, having outperformed the sector by more than 200 per cent since the start of 1990, Wolseley's shares would appear to have little room for more. Since it never plumbed the depths in recession, Wolseley's earnings recovery may also be less striking than that of its more reckless peers. Building materials stocks are also unlikely to be too frisky ahead of the Budget. The fear is the Chancellor may bear down heavily on local government and housing spending.

Lonrho

Lonrho-gazers were given plenty to ponder in yesterday's Delphic boardroom manoeuvres. The election of two non-executives at Mr Dieter Bock's suggestion was balanced by the odd symmetrical and simultaneous elevation of two other men, presumably at Mr Tiny Rowland's behest. The compromise prevents a messy public battle for control which neither Mr Bock nor other shareholders seem to want and which Mr Rowland would almost certainly have lost. Perhaps Mr Rowland hopes that the move will preserve his voting advantage on the board, helping him prevent a shake-out of executive directors. If so, it was bought at a heavy price. The new non-executive board members will doubtless wish to continue the reform of Lonrho, so at best Mr Rowland seems to be fighting a dozy, if forlorn, rear-guard action.

Skirmishing will now move on to detailed areas such as the formation of audit and remuneration committees and the contentious issue of board membership. Sparks will probably continue to fly, though given that institutional investors seem to support Mr Bock's initiatives, he may be expected to make further progress. Presumably the aim is to tidy up the company sufficiently for the market to accept a rights issue - which is probably Lonrho's only way forward. The company is not generating significant amounts of cash. If it is to grow, disposals are only a limited option. Higher gearing would only reawaken the fears which Mr Bock's reforms are designed to quell.

ICL launches computer based on EC research initiative

By Alan Cane

AN ADVANCED computer system, based on technology developed in Europe and paid for by the European Community's principal information technology research programme, will be launched today by ICL.

The system, a parallel processor called "Goldrush", is one of the first examples of the commercial exploitation of research carried out under the Alvey and Esprit programmes.

The UK Alvey initiative absorbed £350m of public funds between 1983 and 1989, and the European Community's Esprit initiative, part of the EC's Framework programme, is currently budgeted at Ecu2.2bn (\$2.7bn) a year.

The two programmes were started as a response to fears that Europe was falling behind the US

and Japan in high technology, but both have been criticised for absorbing large sums of money while generating little of commercial value.

ICL, owned by Fujitsu of Japan but based in the UK, has spent £42m of its own money to develop parallel processing technology to a commercial level. Competitors include Tandem Computers and International Business Machines, both of the US.

Goldrush will enable ICL to bid for data processing contracts for airlines and banks which involve very large amounts of data and high processing rates - contracts traditionally won by IBM.

Mr Martin Bangemann, the EC commissioner for industrial affairs, will attend the system's launch in London today.

The research on which Goldrush is based was carried out by ICL in collaboration with Groupe

Bull of France and Siemens of Germany before the British company was acquired by Fujitsu in 1990. Neither Bull nor Siemens have taken up their rights to the research.

Mr Peter Bonfield, ICL chairman and chief executive, said yesterday that Fujitsu would not have free access to the Goldrush technology. He hoped that the computer could be sold to other manufacturers, including Fujitsu, to be marketed as part of their own product range.

Parallel processing, where many small computers work together to process a problem, will eventually replace conventional data processing methods, experts believe.

Goldrush is designed to process many thousands of transactions a second as part of a larger computer network. Machines will cost from £750,000 to £10m each.

Major hints at tax rise

Continued from Page 1

Downing Street issued only a brief statement saying that Mr Clarke would "take into account" his colleagues' views when framing the November Budget.

But ministers said the chancellor - with the support of some cabinet ministers - had left no doubt that he was planning to add to the £7bn package of tax increases already pencilled in for next April.

Most senior ministers believe Mr Clarke will be obliged to raise at least an extra £3bn in revenue despite the opposition of

several rightwing colleagues.

Some believe that if the economic outlook improves over the next few weeks the figure could be closer to £5bn or £6bn, with a 1 percentage point cut in interest rates to "sweeten" the package.

Several cabinet ministers, including Mr Michael Heseltine, trade and industry secretary, are thought to favour restrictions on mortgage interest relief, perhaps limiting it to 15 per cent. Others believe personal income tax allowances should be restricted to the 20p rate, which might be combined with a modest extension of value added tax.

Derivatives warning

Continued from Page 1

aspects of derivatives - that they can be used to hedge risks and allow banks and companies more flexibility in managing their assets and liabilities.

But it warns that the collapse of a leading market participant or extreme market turbulence could set off a "chain reaction", whereby problems in the derivatives markets could prompt a liquidity crisis in the cash markets and endanger the whole financial system.

"Such developments can only be avoided if all market partici-

pants are aware not just of all the ways in which such instruments can be deployed, but also of the risks attached to using them," the Bundesbank says.

The central bank warns against "fair-weather" risk and control mechanisms for derivatives business. And it suggests ways of mitigating the risks.

Market participants should improve their risk recognition systems, and disclosure requirements should be improved so that banks can no longer hide much of such business "off balance-sheet", the Bundesbank says.

FT WORLD WEATHER

Europe today
A depression near south-west Norway will affect north-west Europe. A frontal system associated with the depression will cross the British Isles with cloud and rain. In the wake of the front, cold and unstable air will spread over the UK bringing showers which will be mixed with sleet and hail over the Highlands later. Over parts of central Europe, high pressure will still produce tranquil though cool conditions with abundant sunshine. However, a frontal zone over the Alps extending to the Black Sea will cause mainly overcast skies with some showers, especially in the Alps. Southern Europe will be mostly sunny and warm, but Spain and the Balearic Isles will have scattered clouds.

Five-day forecast
High pressure will build again over northern UK and will extend its influence toward the Baltic States. As a result, parts of north and north-west Europe will have a lot of sunshine. Along the north side of the high, milder and more moist air will arrive in Scandinavia, resulting in significantly higher temperatures. Southern Europe, especially Italy and southern France, will have a lot of rain as a result of lingering low pressure areas.

TODAY'S TEMPERATURES

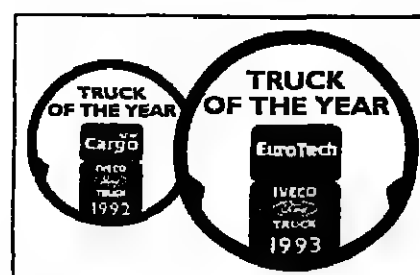
Location	Temp	Location	Temp	Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Madrid	10	Cardiff	10	Frankfurt	10	Malta	26
Barcelona	10	London	10	Paris	10	Rome	24
Berlin	10	Edinburgh	10	Brussels	10	Vienna	24
Amsterdam	10	Glasgow	10	Stockholm	10	Sofia	22
Warsaw	10	Dublin	10	Helsinki	10	Belgrade	21
Prague	10	Lisbon	10	Tallinn	10	Bucharest	21
Budapest	10	Oslo	10	Riga	10	Sofia	21
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FINANCIAL TIMES COMPANIES & MARKETS

THE FINANCIAL TIMES LIMITED 1993

Wednesday October 20 1993



INSIDE

New drugs spur SmithKline Beecham

SmithKline Beecham, the Anglo-American health-care company, has reported a 9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the months ending September 30 to \$291m. The results were helped by currencies, a strong performance from the clinical laboratories operations and recently-launched pharmaceuticals. Page 22

Bouygues warns of fall

Bouygues, the world's largest construction group, warned of a fall in 1993 net profits. The French company announced a 27 per cent fall in net profits to FF73m (\$132.6m) in the first half of the year. Page 18

Puzzle over Sculley

Why should John Sculley, former chairman of Apple Computer who could have a pick of jobs in digital interactive media, choose Spectrum Information Technologies, a \$100m revenue company that has lost money for the past five years? Page 17

Kaufhof presented to US

Today Mr Jens Oetwald, chief executive of Kaufhof Holding, the German retail group, launches presentations to investment institutions in New York and Boston, timed to coincide with the launch of Kaufhof's sponsored American Depository Receipt (ADR) programme for its shares. Page 20

Cheung Kong takes Allied stake

Mr Li Ka-shing's Cheung Kong Holdings has acquired a 15 per cent stake in Hong Kong-listed Allied Group, just one month after a government inspector listed allegations of corporate misfeasance by Allied's former management. Page 20

Virtuality opens at premium

The first day's trading of shares in the newly-listed Virtuality Group saw the price hitting 315p at one point, a substantial premium to the placing price of 170p. Other companies about to come to market include CentreGold, the publisher and distributor of video games, and Cantab Pharmaceuticals, the bio-technology group, which said its placing was fully subscribed. Page 22

McKechnie controls pay off

McKechnie, the international plastics and metal components group, raised pre-tax profits by 7 per cent to \$24.5m (\$36.5m) in the year to July 31. The group was helped by tight cost controls. Page 23

Resilience in Athens

The Athens stock market has weathered last week's change of government in Greece with unexpected resilience. After plunging some 14 per cent after the election was announced, the general index has climbed back steadily. Although it has failed to match its midsummer peak of 956, it is still 28 per cent up from the start of the year. Back Page

Market Statistics

Base lending rates	32	London share services	25-27
FT-100 index	297	London stock options	21
FT-100 futures	297	London stock futures	21
FT-1000 index	297	Managed fund services	25-26
FT-1000 futures	297	Money markets	32
FT-10000 index	297	New int. bond issues	21
FT-10000 futures	297	World commodity prices	24
Foreign exchange	32	World stock mkt indices	33
London recent issues	21	UK dividends announced	22

Companies in this issue

Abstract New Thal	22	IBM	16
Allied Group	9	IMC	22
American Cyanamid	18	Independent Int	22
Apple Computer	17	JCI	20
BHP	17	Jerome (S)	23
BNP	16	Kaufhof Holding	23
BancOne	16	Kenwood Appliances	23
Bell Atlantic	16	Lorho	15
Boat (Henry)	17	McKechnie	23
Boral	17	NWA	17
Bouygues	16	Octavian	22
Bulfinch (AF)	16	Owners Abroad	9
Canadian Plaza	16	Pannoplast	16
CentreGold	22	Patterson Zoonia	23
Chemical Banking	18	Randco	18
Cheung Kong	18	Rhone Poulenc	16
Ciputra Development	20	Samuel Montagu	17
Citicorp	23	Santos	22
Edinburgh Inv Trust	17	SmithKline Beecham	22
Eljohn	18	Spectrum Info Techs	17
GTE	18	Sprint	18
Golden Vale	18	Time Warner	18
Goldman Sachs	18	Upjohn	18
Govett Oriental	23	Venturi Inv Trst	22
Hammermill	22	Virtuality	22
Hammerson	18	Warner-Lambert	18
Henson	9	Wolseley	16

Chief price changes yesterday

FRANKFURT (DM)		Tokyo (yen)	
Paella	327.5 - 6.5	Paella	277.1 - 6.8
Reuter	1051 - 28	Reuter	5180 - 120
Schering	1116 - 25.5	Schering	548 - 18
Yamaichi	315.5 - 5.5	Yamaichi	188.1 - 4.9
Wolseley	375.2 - 7	Wolseley	188.1 - 4.9
NEW YORK (\$)		Tokyo (yen)	
Clamp	30% + 1/4	Clamp	711 + 28
Boydston Trs	40% + 1/4	Boydston Trs	1330 + 60
Wells Fargo	112% + 2 1/4	Wells Fargo	480 - 15
Paella	14% - 3/4	Paella	561 - 37
Al Leds	52% - 1/4	Al Leds	816 - 28
Paella (FF)	820 + 35	Paella (FF)	846 - 25

New York prices at 12:30

LONDON (Pence)		Tokyo (yen)	
Paella	84 + 7	Paella	777 + 24
Reuter	175 + 18	Reuter	49 - 3
Schering	201 + 18	Schering	329 - 4 1/4
Yamaichi	14 + 17 1/2	Yamaichi	440 - 12
Wolseley	25% + 2 1/4	Wolseley	585 - 25
Clamp	93 + 1/4	Clamp	707 - 14
Boydston Trs	100 + 1/4	Boydston Trs	75 - 5
Wells Fargo	112% + 2 1/4	Wells Fargo	432 - 18
Paella	14% - 3/4	Paella	816 - 28
Al Leds	52% - 1/4	Al Leds	846 - 25
Paella (FF)	820 + 35	Paella (FF)	846 - 25

Corrigan moves to Goldman



Gerald Corrigan: a dartboard target in some trading rooms

By Richard Waters in New York

MR GERALD CORRIGAN, one of the leading figures in international finance before he stepped down as head of the New York Federal Reserve Bank this summer, is to take on a full-time position with Goldman Sachs at the start of next year.

However, Mr Corrigan, 52, will not become a partner of the firm, which is renowned as one of the most profitable - and secretive - on Wall Street, and will have no line management responsibilities.

The bulk of his income will take the form of what he termed a "plain vanilla" salary, rather than the profit shares which have made Goldman partners among the highest paid in the industry.

The former New York Fed chief, who began his career as an economist at the Fed 26 years ago, will take charge of one-off projects at Goldman, as well as dealing with the bank's clients and taking responsibility for some transactions.

Both he and Mr Stephen Friedman, Goldman chairman, denied this would give him only a peripheral role at the bank. They also said the position had been specially designed to give Mr Corrigan flexibility, rather than tie him down to only one role.

One of Mr Corrigan's first assignments is likely to be a review of all the risks incurred by Goldman Sachs in its busi-

ness, including market and operational risks, said Mr Friedman. Explaining the need for a full review, he said: "We should not just close the stable door after the horse has bolted."

Mr Corrigan caused a stir throughout the banking industry at the start of last year when he questioned whether banks had sufficient control over the risks they were running in the derivatives markets.

Yesterday, he said the furor stirred up his speech had had a positive effect: "There is no question in my mind that it has helped to stimulate a more aggressive approach to risk management systems and better management information. I haven't regretted making that speech - even if it made me a dartboard target in some trading rooms."

Because of his former role as a bank supervisor, Mr Corrigan said he had decided not to take a position at a commercial bank. Also, he will not advise Goldman on its trading activities or on any bank-related transactions until after next summer, when he has been out of the Federal Reserve system for a year.

The move into the private sector for the former central banker is unlikely to stop him making provocative statements in future. "Clearly, it's the other side of the street," he said. "But I don't intend to become a wallflower on broad issues of public interest and concern."

Balance of power shifts at Lonrho

By Robert Peston and Roland Nield

MR TINY ROWLAND'S reign as near-autocrat of Lonrho came to an end yesterday after the international conglomerate's board agreed to the appointment of non-executive directors for the first time in 20 years.

In a short meeting, the 12-man board voted unanimously to appoint two non-executive directors nominated by Mr Dieter Bock, joint chief executive of the UK-based group. They are Mr Peter Harper, a director of the conglomerate Hanson, and Mr Stephen Walls, chairman of Albert Fisher, the food group.

At the last minute, however, Mr Rowland succeeded in having two other directors appointed - Sir John Leahy, former ambassador to South Africa, as a non-executive, and Mr Terence Wilkinson, managing director of Lonrho's South African interests, as an executive.

Although the showdown between Mr Rowland, Lonrho's guiding force for 30 years, and Mr Bock, the steely German financier appointed last year, ended bloodlessly, there was little doubt that the balance of power had shifted away from the 75-year-old.

The real negotiations had taken place the previous afternoon at the company's City of London head office. Mr Rowland insisted that Mr Bock's nominees should be balanced by a further two appointments. Mr Bock acquiesced, because he "did not want to embroil the company in an expensive public row", according to one of his advisers.

Mr Rowland has been opposed to non-executives since 1973 when the "straight eight" directors - described by him as "decorations on a Christmas tree" - unsuccessfully tried to remove him. Twelve days ago he delayed the appointments of Mr Harper and Mr Walls.

Mr Bock, who acquired 18.8 per cent of Lonrho early this year, believes that Sir John and Mr Wilkinson will act impartially. He is, therefore, convinced that the balance on the 16-member board has tipped in his favour.

Mr Bock's support will be tested as he tries to transform Lonrho into a more conventional company. This will include cuts in the 13 executive directors and in the £20m (\$30m) running costs of the headquarters, and the creation of an audit committee. Lex, Page 14

Improving quality of loans boosts Citicorp

By Richard Waters in New York

BUOYED by continuing improvements in the credit quality of its loan portfolio, Citicorp, the US's largest banking group, yesterday reported an 18 per cent rise in third-quarter after-tax earnings compared with the previous three months.

While pointing to a further improvement in the bank's capital and reserves, Mr John Reed, chairman, added: "The best news in our results was in credit costs, which are declining more rapidly than we had expected, and in the improvement in the quality of our portfolios."

During the three months, net income rose to \$628m, or 97 cents a share, from \$468m (88 cents a share) in the previous three months and \$118m (17 cents a share) in the third quarter of 1992. Commercial credit costs in the third quarter were \$233m, down from \$297m in the second three months of the year, while

credit costs on consumer lending were \$655m (down from \$708m). The bank's portfolio of troubled North American property - one of the main causes of its difficulties two years ago - also showed improvements: due to reduced credit costs, this part of the bank's business reported a loss of \$125m, compared with \$368m in the same period last year. Troubled property loans and property owned by the bank fell to \$4.7bn, down \$614m during the quarter.

Trading income, which in previous quarters had provided the fastest-growing source of revenues, amounted to \$478m, down from \$572m in the previous three months (though ahead of the \$451m of the 1992 third quarter). Income from foreign exchange trading fell by nearly a third, from \$322m to \$245m, while securities trading revenues rose marginally to \$333m.

Despite recent efforts to control costs, the group's operating expenses during the period were

3 per cent higher than the previous three months. This was largely due to expansion in developing countries, and bonuses paid as a result of trading profits. Cost control remains a high priority, Mr Reed said.

Through retained earnings and the sale of new preference shares, Citicorp lifted its key tier one risk-adjusted capital ratio to 6 per cent at the end of September, from 4.3 a year before - though still well below the 8 to 9 per cent range targeted by the bank in the medium term.

Citicorp's share price, which had fallen along with other banks on Monday in reaction to J.P. Morgan's decision to cut its prime lending rate, rose \$1 1/4 to \$36 1/2 by midday yesterday.

● BancOne, one of the US's fastest growing super-regional banks, reported net income of \$284.9m, or 82 cents a share, in the third quarter, up from \$245.7m (70 cents a share) in the third quarter of 1992.

Gilts rally as Bank cancels November auction

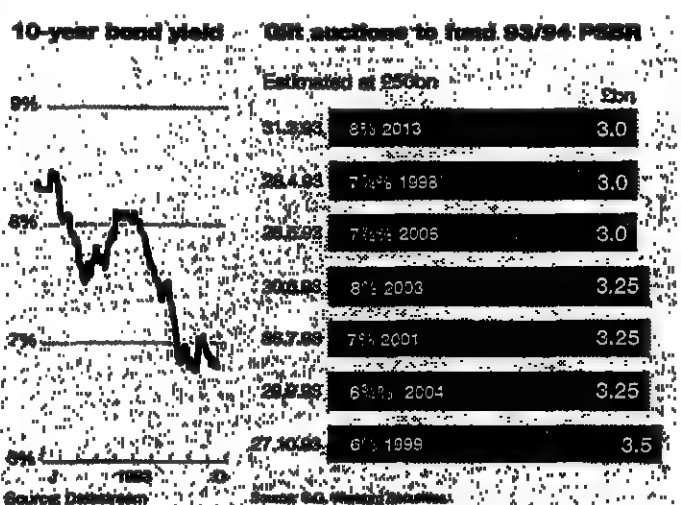
By Connor Middelmann in London

THE BANK of England's announcement yesterday that there would be no gilt auction in November triggered a sharp rally in the government bond market, as dealers speculated that October's auction may be the last this year.

The December long gilt future reached a new contract high of 114 1/2, closing a lower but still up more than half a point on the day.

The record size of the October auction, slated at £2.5bn, and the government's well advanced funding programme sparked some speculation that the Bank might cancel the December auction. The Bank said no gilt auction would be held next month because it would be too close to the Budget on November 30.

"I can't help feeling the Budget was used rather as an excuse to cancel the auction," said Mr Simon Briscoe, UK economist with SG Warburg Securities. "The Treasury is well ahead in



its funding and market participants estimate that, including next week's auction, the Bank will have financed some £400m of the projected £500m public sector borrowing requirement. Moreover, many analysts expect the PSBR to come in lower than forecast, at £45m-£70m.

If an auction is held in December - and the bank is keeping its options open - it could be held earlier than the traditional last Wednesday of the month, which would be in the middle of the holiday season. "They could easily hold an auction in the first half of the month," said Mr Chris Anthony, gilt analyst with UBS.

But some traders said that the Bank might be reluctant to hold an auction mid-month, when market conditions can be volatile amid the regular raft of monthly data releases.

But even if there were no more auctions until January, "that doesn't stop them from selling taps in the meantime," said Brian Flaitow, head of gilt trading at Nomura International.

"They could do as much funding through tap sales as if they were holding an auction," said another dealer. If the Budget was well received by the gilt market, the Bank could make substantial tap sales with relative ease.

This year's bull run in the gilt market has facilitated the funding of the UK's growing PSBR. The yield on the 10-year benchmark gilt has fallen sharply to 6.78 per cent from 8.15 per cent in January.

The bonds to be sold at this month's auction will carry a 6 per cent coupon and mature on August 10 1998. Lex, Page 14

Barry Rile

Global bulls graze on familiar pastures



The liquidity-driven global bull market in bonds and equities is still running strongly, fueled recently by increased confidence that US monetary policy is not going to be tightened any time soon, some say not for another year. Meanwhile, of course, rates are still actually falling in Japan and Europe.

Classic cyclical influences are at work. As deposit rates come down, resources are transferred from banks into the securities markets. This is reinforced by high savings rates because of the low confidence of consumers in difficult economic conditions, exacerbated by the problems faced by the personal sectors of several countries in coping with high debt levels inherited from the 1980s boom. Prices of financial assets are being bid up.

A research note from Kleinwort Benson points out that deposits now account for just 19 per cent of US household financial assets, down from 26 per cent in 1985. Mutual funds have risen from 2 per cent to 6 per cent over the same period, and August net inflows hit a new peak, with \$11.4bn going into equity funds and \$14.4bn into bond funds. The aggregate net sales for the year could be over \$250bn at this rate.

An increasing part of these vast capital flows is being directed overseas. This impetus for the global markets is being reinforced by US pension funds, which are not reeling in new money flows to anything like the same extent, but which happen to have embarked on a diversifi-

cation drive. When 1 per cent of US pension fund assets moves out of the country, that is \$30bn on the rampage.

In the context of such massive flows of capital, normal bases of stock market valuation go out of the window. Hong Kong has always been a "cheap" market on fundamentals because the risks are high, but these quibbles can not survive in the face of tidal waves of foreign capital. The last time it happened was in 1987, when the Hong Kong market rocketed 51 per cent in five months before the October crash.

It is not clear that there will be a similar warning bell in future

Hence the fears that bubbles are being generated. We know from the 1987 experience how modern financial markets can behave. History will not exactly repeat itself, but the faintest whisper of a rise in US interest rates is going to cause a lot of trouble in markets around the world.

The attitude of professional investors is ambivalent. Booming markets attract business. US mutual funds do not turn money away because it is a bad time to invest, they eagerly rake it in and keep fully exposed. The risks can be passed on to the clients. All the same, one of the lessons learned at the time of the 1987 crash was of the potential value of tactical asset allocation models, which warn when the bond

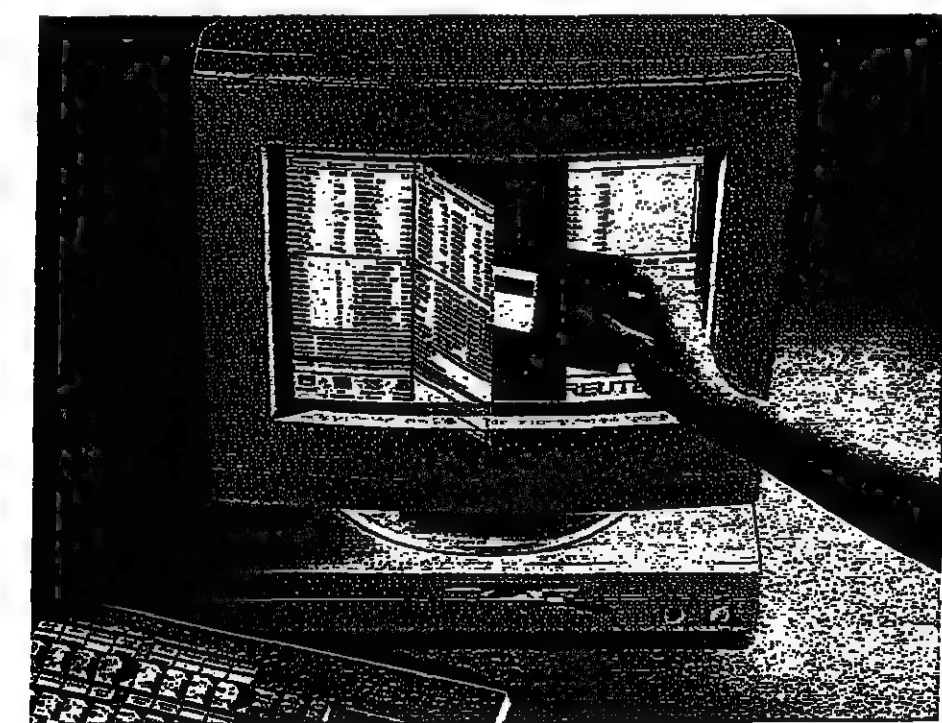
and equity markets have got out of line. You might not think that professional investment managers would need a computer model to tell them when this has happened, but people can get carried away with bull market euphoria in a way that microprocessor chips cannot.

Those few that obeyed their TAA models in the summer of 1987 did well. It is not clear, however, that they will get a similar warning bell in future. The models they are using are generally quite happy with current yield ratios.

The ratio of the long bond yield to the equity market dividend yield in the UK, for instance, is about 2, which is very comfortable in terms of the experience of the past 20 years. But interest rates, inflation and economic growth are all much lower than they were in the 1970s and 1980s. We need a model tailored to the 1990s.

If the models cannot be trusted we are thrown back on traditional warning signs of an imminent stock market peak. One of these is that money tends to move into fringe areas in search of value that no longer exists in the mainstream. The Hong Kong market has risen by 54 per cent in the last seven months. Another is that naive private investor money tends to flood in at the peak. Does this sound at all familiar?

Still another is that bond prices tend to top out several months before equities, although there is some evidence that the time lags have tended to shorten. Last Friday's new low for the US Treasury long bond yield was reassuring, but we must keep watching closely.



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INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

Bouygues issues warning after 27% fall mid-term

By Alice Rawsthorn in Paris

BOUYGUES, the French company which is the world's largest construction group, yesterday warned of a fall in net profits for 1993. This came as it announced a 27 per cent reduction in net profits to FF79m (\$14.1m) in the first half of the year from FF108m in the same period last year.

The group, whose founder, Mr Francis Bouygues, died earlier this year, said it hoped to be able to maintain the same overall level of activity in 1993 as in 1992, but was concerned that the downturn in its property division would depress profits.

Bouygues which, like other construction companies has been badly affected by the decline in European building activity, suffered a slight fall

in turnover to FF28.3bn in the first half of this year from FF30bn at the same stage last year. Its core public works division saw sales stabilise at FF11.8bn.

Property was one of the worst affected areas of activity during the first half as the group was hit by the problems of the residential and commercial markets in France and other countries.

The group expects these difficulties to continue in the second half with property turnover falling to FF3.8bn in 1993 against FF5.5bn in 1992.

Road construction was another problematic area in the first half. Sales in this division rose slightly to FF9.8bn from FF9.4bn.

However, Colas, the group's road construction subsidiary, recently reported an unexpected

heavy interim loss. Bouygues anticipates a slight improvement in this division in the second half with full-year sales rising to FF23bn from FF21.3bn.

Bouygues was bruised by a fall in interim profits at TF1, the flagship French television station in which it is a 25 per cent shareholder. This was due to the general pressures on the French media and a reduction in exceptional profits from property sales.

The group said that, at the end of September, its orders for public works were stable against the same period of the previous year, with off-shore orders showing a slight improvement. Bouygues forecast an overall reduction in sales of 5 per cent to FF59.2bn from FF62.7bn for the full financial year.

Hungary places 51% of plastics processor

By Nicholas Denton in Budapest

HUNGARY'S State Property Agency yesterday announced that it had placed 51 per cent of Pannonplast, the state-owned plastics processor, with UK and US investors.

Details of the transaction were not disclosed by the privatisation agency, but the purchasers are believed to include emerging markets funds.

The placement, arranged by Credit Suisse First Boston, the investment bank, clears the way for another tranche to be offered to the public and floated on the Budapest Stock Exchange next year.

Some of the shares will be offered on concessionary terms under the small investor share-buying programme decided upon last week by the Hungarian cabinet.

Pannonplast was among eight companies named as candidates for the first wave of sales from next January under the new privatisation scheme.

Over five years, Hungary's conservative government intends to sell state shareholdings worth Ft100bn (\$1.6bn) in 70 companies on concessionary terms to small investors in an effort to broaden share ownership and privatisation.

Every adult Hungarian paying a Ft2,000 entrance fee will be entitled to a Ft100,000 interest-free credit facility which can be used to subscribe to the public offerings.

The Pannonplast announcement comes three years after the company's privatisation was originally announced as part of Hungary's failed first privatisation programme.

An IPO scheduled for July 1991 had to be postponed because of the rapid deterioration of the economy following the collapse of the Comecon east European trading bloc.

The SPA said that a subsequent restructuring had reduced debt levels and improved operating profitability, allowing the current private placement.

A recent revival in the Budapest stock market has also improved the investment environment.

Rhône-Poulenc takes centre stage

John Ridding and Paul Abrahams look at the French chemical group

THE privatisation of Banque Nationale de Paris, successfully launched on Monday, will be a hard act to follow. The challenge will fall to Rhône-Poulenc, France's flagship chemicals group, chosen by the French government as the next public-sector company to take its place on the auction block.

Several factors suggest a repeat performance when the chemicals group is sold within the next few weeks. Rhône-Poulenc has been partially privatised. A sale of 10 per cent of the company's shares in January reduced the government's direct holding in the chemicals group to 49 per cent, with Crédit Lyonnais, the state-controlled bank, and ACF, the state-controlled insurance group, holding 3.2 per cent and 7.7 per cent respectively.

The reduction in the state's stake has given Rhône-Poulenc experience of share issues and makes the sale a relatively small operation. The government's remaining shares are valued at about FF18bn (\$2.7bn), compared with the FF28bn raised by BNP and the FF50bn which would flow from the sale of the government's 50 per cent stake in Elf-Aquitaine, the oil, chemicals and pharmaceuticals group which is next on the government's privatisation list.

For the first time, the government will use a book-building technique to ascertain the value of the shares. However, the precedent of BNP which was cheaper than expected, and the need for the government to maintain momentum in its plans to privatise 21 groups, suggests that they are unlikely to be expensive.

As with BNP, the price asked of a group of stable core shareholders - expected to hold between 25 per cent and 35 per cent of Rhône-Poulenc after privatisation - is expected to be higher than for individual investors. But this is not expected to pose difficulties, and the formation of such a group appears nearly complete. Crédit Lyonnais and ACF are expected to be joined by Axa, the insurance group, and BNP, in which Rhône-Poulenc took a 1 per cent stake at the time of its privatisation.

The Dassault and Mérieux

families will become core shareholders following a share issue which will give Rhône-Poulenc complete ownership of Institut Mérieux, the vaccines group.

If the technical aspects of the issue and the probability of an attractive price support the prediction of a smooth privatisation, however, the company faces a series of challenges at the operating level. First-half profits, announced last month, showed a fall of 11 per cent to FF1.37bn. Mr Jean René Fourton, the group's chairman, expects full-year profits to decline and does not expect a significant recovery next year.

The reasons are to be found in the company's operating environment. Healthcare remains the group's most important business. S.G. Warburg, brokers, expects the division to generate operating profits this year of FF6bn, compared with FF6.4bn for the group. But the healthcare operations, which include the majority-owned subsidiary Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, have been hit by healthcare reforms in Germany, Italy and the UK. Sales for the subsidiary could fall during the third quarter compared with the same period last year. For the year they will continue to rise.

Analysts expect RPR's underlying sales growth to be about 7 per cent this year, while earnings per share will grow by about 15 per cent as interest payments fall and cost-cutting improves margins.

In the longer term, reforms in France, which accounts for 25 per cent of the group's healthcare sales, are inevitable, admits the company. However, it insists any changes will be less severe than elsewhere on the continent.

The agrochemicals sector is troubled. Rhône-Poulenc's activities, which generated sales in 1992 of FF10.3bn, are



Jean René Fourton: expects a decline in full-year profits

expected to report falls in turnover and trading profits this year. Its most important markets, France and Germany, dropped 25 per cent this year following the reforms of the EC's Common Agricultural Policy. The group is launching two products in the next two years which should lift sales but incur additional marketing costs.

Meanwhile, Rhône-Poulenc's more traditional chemicals activities have been hit by a downturn in Germany and France which was more serious and prolonged than expected by the management.

Analysts believe fibres and polymers may break even this year on a turnover of about FF10.5bn. The organic and inorganic intermediates division is expected to tumble into loss on turnover of FF13.4bn and specialty chemicals, heavily weighted towards the US and UK, should make a small profit of FF600m on turnover of FF12.3bn.

However, the worst seems to be over. In chemicals, prices appear to have stopped falling.

Rhône-Poulenc (Operating profit by sector, FF m)				
	1991	1992	1993(E)	1994(E)
OF*	763	528	-200	200
SC*	99	562	800	800
Healthcare	4,208	4,982	8,000	8,500
Agro	1,161	870	700	850
Fibres & Polymers	651	532	0	500
Miscellaneous	-598	-675	-700	-700
Total	6,272	5,779	6,400	8,050
Net Financial Charges	-3,454	-3,208	-2,300	-1,900

*Organic & Inorganic Intermediates/Specialty Chemicals (E) = Estimate Source: S.G. Warburg

Even the price of phenol, which has suffered from oversupply and a sharp fall in demand, is stabilising. In the fibres division, which saw profits fall to FF98m in the first half from FF118m, benefits of restructuring - such as July's joint venture with Snia of Italy - should help curb costs and improve margins.

Broader reorganisation within Rhône-Poulenc is likely to be one of the most important factors in a return to profit growth. The sale of assets, such as the group's shares in Roussel-Uclaf for about FF4.5bn in June, are helping to reduce the group's debt from about FF25bn. It seems possible that the company's target debt/equity ratio of 50 per cent by the end of 1994 could be achieved by the end of this year. About 10 non-core businesses remain in Rhône-Poulenc and some could be spun off or sold.

The benefits of reorganisation should bring more fundamental advantages. Mr Fourton's strategy since taking over has been to transform Rhône-Poulenc from a production-oriented company to one focused on marketing and innovation. More than 80 of the group's businesses have been sold as part of the shift in strategy. Annual R&D expenditure has increased to FF6.5bn from about FF5bn in 1988.

The benefits of this shift in focus and restructuring, have been masked by the depressed state of many of its markets. The group should find itself in a relatively strong position when European economies, France and Germany in particular, start to revive. The group has important launches in drugs, agrochemicals and specialty chemicals, whose success will be critical for the company's future.

Profitability should be assisted by privatisation. Mr Fourton has argued that the sale of the government's stake will make it easier to raise new capital, strengthening the balance sheet and reducing the cost of debt. The company does not anticipate a new share issue immediately, relying on continued restructuring to reduce borrowings. But the more impressive the privatisation act, the greater the attractions of a return to the market.

Effjohn stages strong recovery

By Christopher Brown-Humes in Stockholm

EFFJOHN, the Helsinki-based passenger shipping group, staged a strong recovery in the first eight months, as better results from its Baltic Sea operations offset continued losses in its international cruise activities.

The group broke even after financial items, having posted a FMI02m (\$17.5m) loss for the same period in 1992. It still expects to make a loss for the

full year, but says the figure will be lower than last year's FMI25m deficit.

Effjohn's main unit, Silja Line, was able to strengthen its position on its key Baltic routes with streamlining and a reduced challenge from its main competitor.

Silja was able to increase passenger numbers by 27 per cent to 3.8m, although the Finnish and Swedish economies remained weak. Operating profits were up to FMI46m from FMI38m.

By contrast, the group's international activities, which include the cross-channel company, Sally UK, and cruise shipping operations in the US, saw operating losses deepen to FMI36m from FMI25m.

Turnover was up 33 per cent to FMI34.3m.

The FMI204m operating profit, which included a FMI96m gain from vessel sales, was wiped out by higher financial costs reflecting the group's extensive investments in new tonnage.

Wolseley confounds forecasters

By David Blackwell in London

THE SHARE price of Wolseley rose 18p to 682p yesterday as the rapidly expanding UK building materials group again confounded forecasters with higher than expected profits for the year to July 31.

Pre-tax profits rose by a third to £121.1m (\$183m) from £91.3m. Analysts had expected between £110m and £115m.

Mr Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director, said recession had eased, particularly on the US east coast and the UK.

The figures included "surprisingly encouraging first-time results" from Enertech, the Swedish oil and gas burner manufacturer acquired for £45m in April, which made a trading contribution of £3.6m. Other acquisitions made during the year contributed £1.1m. A currency benefit added £5.5m, up from £0.7m.

The group also reduced costs, although Mr Lancaster gave no details. "We have run this business lean and mean for 30 years, and we just run it lean and mean all the time," he said.

Turnover increased by 37 per cent from £1.95bn to £2.5bn, including £69.4m from acquisitions. Of the total, £1bn derived from building distribution in Europe; £1.2bn from building distribution in the US and £278.5m from European manufacturing and other activities.

Mr Lancaster described UK recovery as "patchy".

Earnings per share rose from 26.27p to 33.6p. A final dividend of 3.75p (against 9.45p) is proposed, taking the total for the year to 13.3p, from 12.55p. Last Page 14

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ÖRESUND LINK

Under a Treaty of March 23, 1991, the Governments of Denmark and Sweden have agreed to have constructed an approx 16 kilometres, toll-funded, fixed link for rail and road traffic across the Sound between Copenhagen in Denmark and Malmö in Sweden, called the Öresund Link. The said Governments have established a joint-venture, called Öresundskonsortiet, which shall own and be responsible for the construction and operation of the Öresund Link.

The project is at present subject to a scrutiny process pursuant to national laws in Denmark and Sweden. Final approval of the project is subject to a decision by the Governments of Denmark and Sweden tentatively expected in December 1993.

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PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

Öresundskonsortiet hereby invites interested contractors to pre-qualify to tender for one or more of the following contracts for the Öresund Link.

The works will be executed i.a. under the following major contracts:

- Contract No. 1 - Tunnel
- Contract No. 2 - Dredging and Reclamation
- Contract Nos. 3a and 3b - Bridges

The nature of the contracts is design and construction contracts. Pre-qualification will be made separately for each contract.

The Tunnel Contract comprises the design and construction of an approx 3,000 m long immersed tube tunnel under the Drogden Channel, excluding bulk dredging but including portals. The tunnel will be placed at a depth which enables later dredging to a depth of minimum 10 m in the Channel. The present depth is approx 7.7 m.

The Dredging and Reclamation Contract comprises dredging i.a. for the above immersed tunnel, and of the Flinte Channel, and design and construction of an artificial peninsula at Kasturup, and of an artificial island complex of a length of approx 4,000 m south of Salzholm together with associated construction works, which may include a bridge, a railway tunnel and roadworks.

The Bridges Contracts comprise the design and construction of approx 1,500-2,500 m high bridge, including a cable stayed section with approx 300 m span and min. 55 m clearance (Contract 3a); and of approx 5,000-6,000 m approach bridges (Contract 3b).

Railway installations are not included in the above contracts. Dimensions have not been finally established.

The above works are planned to commence:

- Contract No. 1 October 1994
- Contract No. 2 August 1994
- Contract Nos. 3a and 3b December 1994

Completion of the entire Öresund Link is planned to take place by mid - 1999.

Any contractor wishing to pre-qualify to tender for one or more of the above contracts shall notify Öresundskonsortiet to that effect and obtain the pre-qualification document at either of the below addresses.

The contractor shall complete the pre-qualification document(s), and return the same together with supporting documentation to Öresundskonsortiet under its address in Malmö, Sweden.

Closing date for submission of the completed pre-qualification document(s) is December 20, 1993, 14.00 hours, local time.

Öresundskonsortiet will select the contractors qualified to tender with the intention to restrict the number of tenderers to five for each contract.

Invitation to tender is tentatively expected before March 1994 for Contract No. 1 and Contract No. 2, and before May 1994 for Contract Nos. 3a and 3b.

All documentation and correspondence shall be in English (except where otherwise is accepted in the pre-qualification document(s)).

For further information please contact Mr Jan Danielson, Managing Director & CEO or Mr Peter Lundhus, Technical Director.

Finally, reference is made to the notices dispatched on October 13, 1993 for publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The addresses of Öresundskonsortiet are:

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Ref: Prequalification
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NEWSLETTERS

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

Cheung Kong pays HK\$500m for 15% of Allied Group

By Simon Davies
in Hong Kong

MR Li Ka-shing's Cheung Kong Holdings has acquired a 15 per cent stake in Hong Kong-listed Allied Group, one month after a government inspector issued a report listing numerous allegations of corporate misfeasance by Allied's former management.

The investigation into five companies associated with Allied was launched in August 1992, and has had a drastic impact on their share prices. Cheung Kong has paid around HK\$500m (US\$64.7m) for its stake in the parent company, which analysts believe has an asset value more than double that figure.

Cheung Kong is now the second largest shareholder in Allied Group, which controls two other listed companies with interests in manufacturing and property development. The largest shareholder, Mr Lee Ming-tee, holds a 29.9 per cent stake and there is speculation that he may sell, which would give control of

the group to Cheung Kong.

Following the recommendations in the government investigation, it is possible that legal action may be taken against the former management of Allied. Stock market regulators are also examining possible breaches of securities regulations.

This has created substantial pressure for Mr Lee to withdraw from the group, and he recently resigned as chairman. Minority shareholders have yet to receive any direct benefit from the government's move to clean up the company, which has so far had to make provisions of HK\$43m as a result of the investigation.

If Cheung Kong were to take control of Allied, however, it would be seen as arguably the most positive outcome of the 13-month, HK\$46m inquiry.

The investigation will have shaken out a management which appears to have refused to play by the rules of a more tightly regulated stock market, and it will have replaced them with one of Hong Kong's most renowned deal-makers.

Indonesian property company to go public

By William Keeling
in Jakarta

CIPUTRA Development, a leading Indonesian property company, yesterday announced plans to go public next month. The company expects to raise \$120m in a public offering which would value it at about \$500m.

Brokers say the company has a 14 per cent share in Jakarta's fast-growing residential property market, and has a "landbank" in Java of 8.8m sq metres with a value of Rp1,474bn (\$696m).

The company was established in 1981 by Mr Ciputra and is currently 98 per cent owned by his family, a shareholding which will be reduced to about 75 per cent after the public offering.

Mr Ciputra is also a leading shareholder in the Jaya Group and Metropolitan Group, which account for a further 41 per cent of the Jakarta residential property market. Estate agents estimate an annual demand for 100,000 new houses in Jakarta and 600,000 houses in all of Indonesia. Annual construction in Jakarta currently averages about 50,000 houses.

Since 1984, Ciputra Development has been developing a 455 hectare residential site close to Jakarta's international airport. The company is beginning construction of a 500 hectare "satellite city" at Tangerang, west Jakarta, and a 1,000 hectare residential and golf course development in Surabaya, an industrial city in West Java with a population of 1.8m.

The company is also entering the retail property sector, having just completed a 50,000 sq metre shopping mall and a 338-room hotel complex in Jakarta.

Brokers say funds raised at flotation will be used to finance current development projects. The company also plans to increase its landbank to 12m sq m by the end of 1994. It forecasts a gross profit of Rp848bn on revenue of Rp842bn this year, rising to a profit of Rp161bn on revenue of Rp603bn in 1994.

Kaufhof takes specialty message to New York

David Waller on the efforts of a German retailer to launch an ADR programme in the US



Jens Odewald: has diversified away from department stores

RARELY does a chief executive of a large German company take the trouble to fly to North America to present his company to US investors; even more rarely, amid Germany's deep recession, does that chief executive have an optimistic message to communicate.

Today, when Mr Jens Odewald, chief executive of Kaufhof Holding, launches a series of presentations to investment institutions in New York and Boston, he will have done both.

He will tell the institutions that group turnover for the current year is set to rise by more than 10 per cent from the DM20.46bn (\$12.58bn) made last year. He has already predicted a substantial rise in earnings for the group after net profits of DM222.4m last year.

The presentations will coincide with the launch of Kaufhof's sponsored American Depositary Receipt (ADR) programme for its shares. The retailer will become one of the handful of German companies to set up such a programme.

The move falls short of the commitment to the US investment community shown by Daimler-Benz, Germany's biggest industrial company, which early this month obtained a full listing for its shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Kaufhof is majority-owned by the privately-owned Swiss-based Metro Group, and the interests of institutional shareholders will always be secondary to those of Mr Otto Beisheim, proprietor of the DM60bn-plus Metro empire.

However, the timing of Kaufhof's ADR programme seems designed to prompt investors to draw parallels with Daimler-Benz - and Kaufhof will emerge favourably from the comparison, even if for accounting reasons they will not be comparing like with like.

When Daimler-Benz came to New York it announced a loss of DM949bn for the first six months of the year (under US accounting rules). The Cologne-based Kaufhof group is one of a small group of large German companies which will be able to increase earnings (under German accounting rules) and turnover in 1993, the nadir of the worst recession in

"The merchandise is the same as in a department store, but the business is far more profitable. Your costs are lower because you tend to be in a suburban area rather than the city centre, and the concentration on one market niche gives the consumer a clear answer as to why he or she should go shopping in this store rather than anywhere else."

The group began its move into the specialty sector in 1985 with the acquisition of a stake in Saturn-Elektro, a consumer electronics store based in Cologne. Following a mixture of acquisition and organic growth, sales in this segment have risen from DM270m in 1987 to an expected DM46m to DM4.5bn this year.

Other specialty activities include Reno, a low-price shoe-retailing chain, and Vobis Microcomputer, Europe's largest retailer of IBM-compatible personal computers. Kaufhof bought 50 per cent of Vobis in 1989, taking its holding to 66 per cent at the beginning of this year. Within three years, sales have grown from DM300m to DM1.5bn in 1992 and a projected DM1.8bn to DM1.9bn for the current year.

A further market segment is tourism: last year Elefant bought a majority stake in Kuoni, the Swiss tourism company. Sales in this area have grown from DM200m in 1976 to some DM6bn this year.

Specialty retailing last year accounted for 28 per cent of group sales and 44 per cent of profits, while department stores generated 48 per cent of sales and 47 per cent of profit.

Mr Odewald will today tell investors that specialty retailing has the potential to increase to between 35 per cent and 40 per cent of the business portfolio by 1997.

He is confident that the group will maintain its resilience to the difficult consumer spending environment of the current decade. "Specialty retailing is the runner of the 1990s," he believes.

Investors appear to share that optimism. The shares have climbed by more than 35 per cent since the beginning of the year, and at DM58 yesterday are 7 per cent higher than when Kaufhof announced its ADR plans earlier this month.

Western Areas result boosts JCI earnings

By Philip Gawth
in Johannesburg

A STRONG performance from the Western Areas mine helped lift profit after tax and capital expenditure from the three gold mines in the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI) group by 23.3 per cent to R72.5m (\$21.7m) in the September quarter from R59.8m in the same period last year.

Western Areas increased net profit by 70 per cent to R37.7m from R22.5m. Gold production rose for the fifth consecutive quarter by 7.4 per cent to 4,104kg from 3,823kg, as both tonnes milled and grade increased. The average gold price received rose by 7.8 per cent to R38,091 a kg from R35,403 a kg. Unit working costs declined by 1.1 per cent to R28,511 a kg.

Randfontein produced 8,121kg of gold, up from 7,902kg, lifting net profits by 8.3 per cent to R37.2m from R34.4m after capital expenditure of R20m.

The Joel mine recorded a loss of R2.5m compared with a R2.2m profit the previous quarter. The strategy of maintaining a reduced stoping rate, while increasing development to build up a sound payable ore reserve is being continued.

Lower volumes in the inland market and weaker prices contributed to a 35 per cent decline in attributable profit to R112.4m at Randfontein, one of South Africa's three main coal producers, in the year to September. Earnings per share fell by 48 per cent to 67 cents following the issue of shares. The dividend was cut by 25 per cent to 45 cents.

The RTZ Corporation PLC
NOTICE
To Holders of Warrants to Bearer

3.75 "B" Convertible Preference Shares of £1 each
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Dividend of 1.75p per Share will be paid on 4 January 1994 in respect of the year ending 31 December 1993.
Payment of this dividend will be made after presentation of Coupon No. 63 at any of the undermentioned offices of payment.

OFFICES OF PAYMENT

The RTZ Corporation PLC
(Registered Office)
1 St. James's Square
London SW1Y 4LD
Generale de Banque
11 Boulevard de la Woluwe
1050 Brussels, Belgium
Banque Internationale de Luxembourg S.A.
2 Boulevard Royal
Luxembourg
Union Bank of Switzerland
Bankengasse 45
CH 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
Credit Suisse
Société Générale de Paris
Rue de la Harpe 155
75004 Paris, France

Under the provisions of the Companies Act 1985, the dividend will be payable without deduction of United Kingdom Tax and to Shareholders resident in the United Kingdom will carry a tax credit calculated by reference to the lower rate of Income Tax applicable at the date of payment. Where a double tax agreement provides, Shareholders resident outside the United Kingdom will obtain a tax credit, against which some United Kingdom Tax may fall to be offset. Coupons, which must be based on special forms, which can be obtained on or after 6 November 1993 at any of the above offices, may be deposited on or after 15 November 1993. Coupons presented for payment in the United Kingdom must be left FIVE CLEAR DAYS for examination. Shareholders should note that under the Company's Articles of Association, provision is made for the forfeiture of the above dividends if not claimed within 12 years from the date of declaration.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
J. B. BRADLEY
Secretary

6 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LD
20 October 1993

SWEDBANK
(Sparbanken Sverige AB)

US\$150,000,000
Undated Subordinated
Floating Rate Notes

Notice is hereby given that the notes will bear interest at 5.125% per annum from 20 October 1993 to 20 April 1994. Interest payable on 20 April 1994 will amount to US\$259,10 per US\$10,000 note.

Agent: Morgan Guaranty
Trust Company
JPMorgan

REPAP ENTERPRISES INC.
US\$200,000,000 FLOATING
RATE NOTES DUE 1997

For the period 19 October 1993 to 19 January 1994 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 6.25% per annum. The amount payable per US\$200,000 will be US\$2824.80 payable on 19 January 1994.

Agent Bank
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HMIC MORTGAGE NOTES & PLC
£150,000,000
Class A
and
£7,500,000
Class B
Mortgage Secured Floating Rate
Notes due July 2030

Notice is hereby given that for the interest period from October 16, 1993 to January 17, 1994 the Class A Notes and Class B Notes will carry interest rates of 5.0075% and 6.0125%, respectively. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, January 17, 1994 for the Class A Notes will be £1,485.28 per £25,000 nominal amount and for the Class B Notes will be £1,598.48 per £25,000 nominal amount.

By: The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
London, Agent Bank
October 20, 1993

U.S. \$50,000,000
Hysung
(America), Inc.
Incorporated with limited liability
in the State of New York, U.S.A.
Guaranteed Floating Rate
Notes due 1996

For the three month interest period 19th October, 1993 to 18th January, 1994 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 3.575 per cent per annum, with a Coupon Amount of U.S. \$495.14 per U.S. \$50,000 Note, payable on 18th January, 1994.

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New Issue

September 1993

Fiduciary issue by Chase Manhattan Bank Luxembourg S.A. to fund a loan made by it to

SAFRA REPUBLIC HOLDINGS S.A.
(Incorporated in Luxembourg with limited liability)

U.S.\$ 150,000,000
Floating Rate Notes due 1998

Merrill Lynch International Limited

J.P. Morgan Securities Ltd. Salomon Brothers International Limited

CS First Boston Kidder, Peabody International Limited

Deutsche Bank AG London Morgan Stanley International

UBS Limited

INVITATION
FOR THE SUBMISSION OF SEALED BIDDING OFFERS
FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MEVOR'S SHARES
HELD BY ELEVME S.A.

SUMMARY INFORMATION ON MEVOR S.A.

NAME: MINING AND INDUSTRIAL MINERALS - MEVOR S.A.
LOCATION: ABBOS, P.O. Thessaloniki
ACTIVITY: MEVOR is now active in the production and marketing of:
o Feldspar
o Quartz
o Silica sand
o Quartzite
o Wolframite

FINANCIAL DATA
Based on Balance sheet Dec. 31, 1992

ASSETS	Dr.	60,512,861
A. INSTALLATION COSTS		
1. FIXED ASSETS		
II. Intangible assets		60,512,861
III. Tangible assets		354,554,028
IV. Participations		635,380
B. CURRENT ASSETS		
I. Receivables		65,295,324
II. Inventory		59,597,115
III. Marketable Securities		18,689,151
IV. Cash		12,201,799
E. INTERIM ACCOUNTS		1,138,658
TOTAL ASSETS		635,295,586
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Share Capital		500,500,000
Investment Subsidies		237,167,548
Reserves		12,792,432
Retained earnings		(139,380,598)
Provisions		86,267
Short-term liabilities		17,473,285
Interim accounts		4,539,822
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		635,295,586

PROCEDURE
(As per Greek Law 2000/91)

- Potential buyers are invited to receive, after signing a confidentiality agreement with ELEVME S.A., the Information Brochure describing MEVOR's activities.
- Interested parties shall submit a binding offer, in a sealed envelope, for 353,980 shares (out of a total of 500,500 shares). It is indispensable that the offer be accompanied by a guarantee letter issued by a Bank legally operating in Greece for the sum of 25,000,000 Dr's which represents 10% of the starting price of the public auction. The guarantee letter, draft of which can be obtained from ELEVME S.A., shall be submitted enclosed in a separate envelope marked "Guarantee Letter".
- The offers shall be submitted on Monday, 22nd November 1993 between 8 a.m. and 12 noon to the notary public of Langada (Thessaloniki prefecture), Stavros Anastasiadis, 33 Loulou St. 2nd by-road, 1st floor, Tel. +30-564-25568.
- The offers shall be opened on the same day at 12.15 pm. The bidders may witness the opening of the offers.
- The starting price amounts to 680 Dr's per share i.e. a minimum total of 256,074,000 Dr's (Decision of Court of Appeal of Thessaloniki No 1187/1993).
- Expenses for publishing this invitation will be borne by the highest bidder.
- The bidders should also submit a letter concerning:
 - Their intentions in respect of maintaining or not or increasing the number of job positions.
 - Any other proposals for further developing the company's activities such as new investments, increasing of exports etc.

To obtain the Information Brochure as well as additional data on MEVOR, those interested can apply to the liquidators of ELEVME S.A., 18 Kifissias, Marousi, TEL: (01) 8843520 and (01) 8843529, FAX: (01) 8843527.

Marousi, October 15th, 1993
THE LIQUIDATORS

GROUP GOLD MINING COMPANIES
Summary of reports quarter ended 30 September 1993

Randfontein Estates
The Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company Witwatersrand Limited
Registration number 01/00251/008

	Quarter ended 30.09.93	30.06.93
Ore milled - tons (000)	2 085	1 918
Yield - grams per ton	3,96	4,12
Working cost		
- per ton milled	R111,14	R107,82
- per kilogram produced	R29 139	R29 169
	R000	R000
Net profit before tax	86 407	81 896
Net profit after tax	57 220	59 078
Dividend	—	67 249
Capital expenditure	20 005	24 720

Western Areas
Western Areas Gold Mining Company Limited
Registration number 59/0202/006

	Quarter ended 30.09.93	30.06.93
Ore milled - tons (000)	600	573
Yield - grams per ton	6,84	6,67
Working cost		
- per ton milled	R201,88	R189,11
- per kilogram produced	R29 511	R29 843
	R000	R000
Net profit before tax	46 561	31 765
Net profit after tax	43 244	31 765
Dividend	—	10 077
Capital expenditure	7 505	9 567

H. J. Joel
H. J. Joel Gold Mining Company Limited
Registration number 05/0185/006

	Quarter ended 30.09.93	30.06.93
Ore milled - tons (000)	167	186
Yield - grams per ton	6,01	6,12
Working cost		
- per ton milled	R193,43	R189,36
- per kilogram produced	R23 174	R29 809
	R000	R000
Net profit before and after tax	3 808	6 277
Capital expenditure	5 311	4 050

All figures are unaudited. Quarterly reports have been mailed to the shareholders of each company. Copies of the reports may be obtained from Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company (London), Limited, 6 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1NP.

Johannesburg
20 October 1993

DIAMORA EPANISSIS
ELEKTRISMOU
(Public Power Corporation)

U.S. \$50,000,000
Floating Rate Notes due 1994

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that for the interest period commencing on 21st October, 1993, the Notes will bear interest at the rate of 8 1/4% per annum. The interest payable on 21st April, 1994 against Coupon No. 23 will be U.S. \$14,894.72 per U.S. \$50,000 Note.

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Euro-convertible debenture planned by Bangkok Land

non-resident investors.

IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank, achieved its aggressive dollar funding target of between 35 and 40 basis points below Libor by swapping the proceeds of its Pta10bn offering of five-year bonds.

437(4/4/94-03)	Bear Stearns Inst.
240(4/4/94-03)	Bearlows Trsut Ind.
	Cell First Boston
8-8 (9/4/-03)	Deutsche/Salomon Brothers
21 (9/4/94-01)	C.Lyonsne/ JP Morgan
15 (9/4/-03)	DNB
-	Banesto
-	BPi
-	Dallas Securities Bank
-	Nikko Bank (Switz.)
bond) at launch is supplied by the lead	
semi-annual coupon. R: lead re-offer price;	
y semi-annual R - 0.25%; minimum 55%;	
negotiable with outstanding \$150m launched on	
2% + (8.5% - 82%) thereafter, where 82%	
being 25/10/93.	

GOVERNMENT BONDS				
ISS	Change	Yield	Week ago	Month ago
7695	-0.326	6.59	6.62	6.76
8500	-0.036	7.11	7.30	7.16
6203	-0.150	6.72	6.77	7.03
8750	-0.326	6.46	6.48	6.76
8548	-0.244	6.47	6.60	6.90

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
5769	+0.128	3.82	3.18	3.56	
5558	+0.206	3.90	3.77	4.00	
2600	-0.030	6.81	5.98	6.86	
1000	-	8.55	8.86	8.13	
-1-15	+5/32	6.06	6.23	6.42	
-1-18	+3/32	6.80	6.81	7.00	
-1-20	+1/162	7.15	7.15	7.33	
-2-22	-16/32	5.58	5.21	5.58	
-1-17	-20/32	5.85	5.86	6.05	
2200	3.165	6.85	6.85	6.85	

Mr Anant Kanjanapas, chief executive, said the issue "could boost the credibility of Thailand among foreign investors".

In contrast, the Osaka Securities Exchange has posted a loss for the six-months ended September. It made a loss of ¥41m following declining

The exchange has rebuilt profitability, but its share of Canadian stock trading by dol-

[illegible]

MONTHS OFFERS									
Issue Price p	Amount Paid up	Latest Reissue Date	1993		Stock	Closing Price p	+ or -		
			High	Low					
140	nil	22/10	340m	20pm	Advanta	250m			
2	nil	22/11	10m	10m	Black	14m			
35	nil	22/10	10m	14pm	Black	14m			
30	nil	22/11	5pm	13m	Black	14m	-14		
50	nil	10/12	25pm	25pm	Betterware	25m			
100	nil	1/11	11m	11m	Capgemini	25m			
120	nil	12/11	11m	30m	Century Delta	25m			
160	nil	2/11	25pm	18pm	Nil	25m	-1		
200	nil	2/11	14m	14m	Nil	77m			
230	nil	22/11	60pm	25m	Money Tacks	60pm			
2	nil	22/10	4pm	2pm	Pharmia Tech	25m			
24	nil	22/10	4pm	2pm	Pharmia Tech	25m			

and Prices at a premium. For other issues please refer to the Guide to the London Share Service.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

● First Dealings	Oct. 11	Automated Secs., Betterware,
● Last Dealings	Oct. 22	Blacks Leisure, Owners Abroad,
● Last Declarations	Jan. 13	Rhino, Ricardo, Scot. Asian Inv.
● For settlement	Jan. 24	Sleepy Kids and Tadolite Tech.
● month call rate indications are shown in Saturday editions.		Put: Automated Secs., Betterware
		and Royal Bk. Scotland. Put & Call:
		Royal Bk. Scotland.

FT-SE ACTUARIES INDICES

The FTSE 100, FTSE Mid 250 and FTSE All-Share 350 indices and the FTSE Actuaries Industry Indices are calculated by The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom

[illegible]

6	Up to 5 years (2)	189.32	+0.66	189.77	0.25	4.28	12	Inflation rate 5%
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PRICE INDEXES					AVERAGE GROSS REDEMPTION YIELDS	Tue Oct 19	Mon Oct 16	Year ago (approx.)
Tue Oct 19	Day's change %	Mon Oct 16	Accrued interest	Jul adj. 1983 to date	British Government			
					1 Over 5 years.....	8.00	8.10	7.24
					2 Over 15 years.....	8.50	8.50	8.53
					3 0% (7-14%) 20 years.....	7.12	7.20	8.63
					4 Medium 5 years.....	8.34	8.34	7.59
					5 Over 15 years.....	9.00	9.15	8.95
128.58	+0.03	128.54	1.35	9.80	6 8% (10-14%) 20 years.....	7.18	7.20	8.22
159.42	+0.06	159.23	1.42	11.00	7 Over 5 years.....	8.00	8.00	7.80
177.95	+0.27	177.40	2.27	9.70	8 Over 15 years.....	7.26	7.34	9.26
200.99	-0.36	201.77	4.10	8.83	9 7 1/4% 20 years.....	7.26	7.36	9.38
181.69	+0.16	181.51	1.58	10.51	10 Irredeemable For Yield	7.26	7.23	8.25
					Index-United			

Cost controls and introduction of new products behind advance McKechnie improves to £24.5m

By Tim Burt

THE INTRODUCTION of new products and tight cost controls helped McKechnie, the international plastics and metal components group, increase pre-tax profits by 7 per cent to £24.5m in the year to July 31.

The Midlands-based group said that the growth, achieved on turnover ahead 10 per cent to £314.4m, was due to focused management rather than improving economic conditions.

Mr Michael Ost, chief executive, said: "Current trading is showing only patchy improvement and we believe it will be the second half of our financial year before any significant upturn in economic activity can be expected."

Profits before interest increased from £23.3m to £25.2m, although operating profits in the key plastics business fell from £8.5m to £5.9m. The decline, more than offset by improvements in consumer and specialist products, was blamed on a £204,000 loss on US operations compared with a £2.2m profit last time.

Mr Ost said the poor performance in the US was due



Michael Ost: current trading showing only patchy improvement

mainly to restructuring costs and weak volume sales. These included £1.6m on redundancies and a £700,000 loss on foreign exchange transactions. Management restructuring in the US, costing £1.1m, was included in "net one-time costs" which totalled £2.9m. Earnings per share advanced from 19.7p to 21.4p. An unchanged final dividend of 9.75p maintains the total at 14.75p.

the £47.3m acquisition of Savage Group, the UK manufacturer of home improvement products.

Savage contributed £1.2m to pre-interest profits in the 10 weeks following its acquisition.

McKechnie also purchased Accord Industries, the New Zealand machine retailer, for £1.3m and, since the year end, Phipps International, the Australian architectural hardware manufacturer, for £5m.

Mr Ost said the acquisitions in Australasia reflected the group's determination to exploit markets in the Pacific Rim, where pre-interest profits increased 46 per cent to £7.3m.

Although borrowings increased to cover these acquisitions, gearing was low enough to enable the group to consider further purchases, he added. "We're in a position to make both large and small buys."

Earnings per share advanced from 19.7p to 21.4p. An unchanged final dividend of 9.75p maintains the total at 14.75p.

COMMENT

By focusing on its core activities McKechnie has managed to come through the UK recession, but adverse trading conditions - especially in plastics - means it is still having to squeeze margins and costs. It is looking at new acquisitions in Europe but is unlikely to proceed before the end of 1994. Forecast pre-tax profits of £31m next year put the shares, down 13p at 432p, on a multiple of 17.7. Although the strong balance sheet and low gearing makes them a safe investment, the company's strategy envisages only slow organic growth, rather than a swift upturn in profitability.

Henry Boot bucks trend in building with £2.4m

By Catherine Milton

HENRY BOOT, the Sheffield-based construction and property company, continued to defy its debilitated sector by lifting pre-tax profits from £2.21m to £2.35m for the six months to June 30.

The shares, which have outperformed the construction sector since late 1989, eased 1p to 268p, continuing a decline from their May peak of 283p.

Earnings per share climbed to 6.3p (5.7p). The board declared an interim dividend of 1.7p (1.6p) on the strength of results so far, but said it saw little evidence of recovery.

Mr Jamie Boot, managing director, warned the government not to cut public spending in next month's budget: "It is crucial for the industry not to suffer a reduction in public expenditure on the infrastructure as the private sector is still very uncertain."

Turnover rose to £64.7m (£51.1m), reflecting improved volumes in construction and housebuilding operations.

Pre-tax margins fell to 3.63 per cent (4.32 per cent). Mr Boot said the increase in turnover had not been matched by price rises. Lower interest rates meant a reduced return on cash balances of £14.5m (£11.4m). This had been offset by improved trading profits.

Mr Boot said housebuilding reservations and completions were up on the previous half year and would remain buoyant in the full 12 months.

Civil engineering volumes were up by about 20 per cent on the previous half year and would finish ahead of the previous full year in spite of an expected weaker second half.

African side gives boost to Paterson Zochonis

By Peggy Hollinger

PATERSON Zochonis, the detergents and Cussons soap manufacturer, announced a 7 per cent increase in annual profits, from £26.7m to £28.6m pre-tax, helped by a strong contribution from Africa and a £3m increase in investment income.

Mr Alan Whittaker, finance director, said strong advances in most of the group's international businesses had helped to offset a decline in Greece. Sales for the group as a whole were 3 per cent higher at £233.4m, against £227.3m.

At the operating level, Paterson showed a 24 per cent fall to £12.3m for the year to May 31. However, 1992's figures had been inflated by a £7.3m debt repayment from the Nigerian

government, leaving the underlying 1993 operating profits ahead 39 per cent.

Mr Whittaker said the African businesses had benefited from a stable Nigerian currency and higher sales. Profits from associated companies, mainly in Nigeria, more than doubled from £2.7m to £5.6m.

The UK exporting business benefited from higher sales to the Middle East and eastern Europe. In Greece, bumper olive harvests hit olive oil prices, leaving that business with lower profits.

During the year, Paterson also made its first acquisition in three years with the £3.2m purchase of a recently privatised Polish detergents manufacturer.

This business, with estimated annual turnover of some

£20m and an 8 per cent share of the Polish powder detergents market, had contributed a small profit for the two months it was included. The group expected to double capacity over three years with a £4.75m investment programme.

Mr Whittaker said the acquisition had "whetted our appetite for more in eastern Europe". Paterson has a hefty war chest, with investments in equities and currencies totalling £167.1m and a further £2.4m in cash. The buoyant stock market helped investment income rise by £3.1m to £16.4m.

The final dividend is increased to 10.25p for a total of 12.5p (11.45p). Earnings were ahead 6 per cent at 35.63p (33.75p).

Kenwood expands with £4.3m buy

KENWOOD Appliances, the Hampshire-based household appliance manufacturer, has paid £4.33m cash for Precision Engineering (Reading).

The purchase includes Waymaster, Precision's operating subsidiary, and Precision Reinforced Fibres, an associated company. In addition to the purchase price dividends totalling £370,000 were paid to the vendors prior to completion. The acquisition will be funded by additional borrowings.

Waymaster is a manufacturer of water filters

and is also an established brand in kitchen scales. The company currently supplies filter cartridges to Kenwood.

For the year to end-December 1992 Waymaster returned profits before exceptional of £417,000 on sales of £8.5m.

The acquisition should give a small lift to Kenwood's net earnings in the current year. Mr Tim Parker, chief executive, said: "Waymaster brings important strategic benefits and significant opportunities for increased manufacturing efficiency."

S Jerome returns to the black

COST CUTTING and increased turnover enabled S Jerome & Sons (Holdings), the West Yorkshire-based spinner and weaver, to return pre-tax profits of £25,000 for the six months to June 30, against losses of £20,000.

The company is returning to the dividend list with a 0.2p interim, its first payment since 1991.

The comparative figure included £153,000 profits from its electronics business sold last year. Turnover was £13.2m (£31.5m). Turnover for continuing activities was £10.8m with

pre-tax losses of £182,000. Earnings per share came out at 0.2p (losses 0.08p).

The company said that it had received a claim from the purchase of its electronics company but it was impossible at present to assess the extent of any liability.

EIT matches benchmark with 7% net assets rise

By James Hudson, Scottish Correspondent

EDINBURGH Investment Trust yesterday announced a 9.5 per cent increase in its interim dividend from 2.85p to 3.10p.

Net asset value at the end of September was 322.5p, against 300.8p six months earlier, a rise of 7.2 per cent, compared with an advance of 7 per cent in the FT-A All-Share Index.

EIT, the second largest investment trust in the UK, said the increased dividend reflected income from its large gilts portfolio.

In addition there was strong dividend growth from its equity holdings, helped by the

accelerated payment of UK dividends by many companies for tax reasons.

Net revenue for the six months to September 30 was £17m (£13.4m) for earnings per share up 26 per cent to 5.77p (4.57p).

However, Dunedin Fund Managers, the trust's manager, said the rate of increase was unlikely to be sustained over the full year, although earnings were expected to be ahead of last year's total of 9.25p.

EIT had 88.3 per cent of its equity holdings invested in the UK at the end of the half year, compared with 88.8 per cent six months earlier.

Over the half year it cut its exposure to US stocks from 8.2 per cent to 4 per cent, believing the recovery in US corporate profits was still uncertain.

The funds were reinvested in Japan and the rest of the Pacific Rim. At the end of the six months EIT had 2.9 per cent (2.7 per cent) of its equity portfolio in continental Europe, 3.5 per cent (2.5 per cent) in Japan and 1.3 per cent (0.8 per cent) in the rest of the Pacific basin.

Gross revenue rose to £30.5m (£24.8m), helped by investment income ahead at £28.7m (£20.9m). That was partly offset by a fall in interest on deposits to £508,000 (£1.7m).

Govett Oriental assets up 30%

By Philip Coggen, Personal Finance Editor

THE STRONG performance of Far Eastern stock markets helped Govett Oriental Investment Trust to increase net assets per share by 30 per cent over the six months to September 30.

At £410.1p per share the net asset value was 83 per cent higher than the 198.3p of a year earlier.

The result makes it the best performing investment trust in its sector of Far East, including Japan, over the year to Octo-

ber 1, based on mid-market to mid-market valuations with net income reinvested, according to Micropal.

Mr Charles Fowler, who manages the trust, said the geographical split of assets at the end of September was Japan (25 per cent), Malaysia (13.3), Singapore (12.5), Hong Kong (12.5), Korea (9), Indonesia (5.7), Taiwan (4.6), Thailand (4.4), Australia (3.5), UK (3.3), Philippines (3.1), India (1.0) and others (3.5).

The trust's performance during the year benefited from the high weightings in Malaysia,

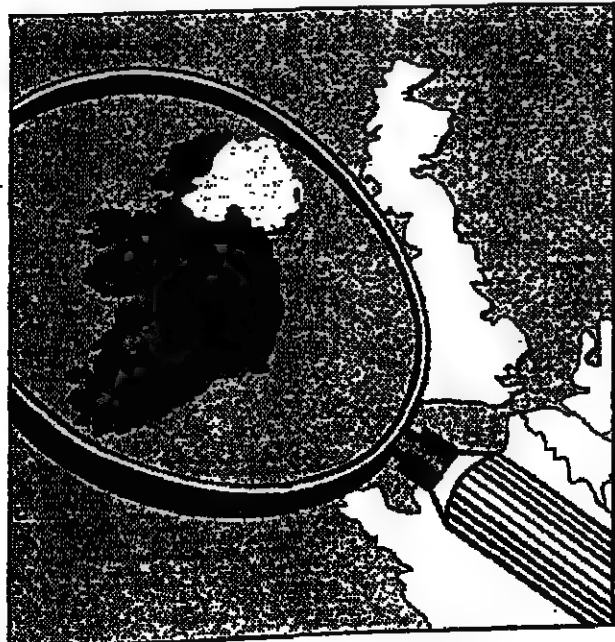
Singapore and Indonesia, according to Mr Fowler, although he has gradually reduced his holdings in those countries in the wake of the rapid rise in share prices.

Total net assets at the end of September were £512.7m, making Govett Oriental one of the UK's largest investment trusts. Revenue attributable to shareholders in the six months to the end of September was £1.51m, against £1.7m, equivalent to earnings per share of 1p (0.98p).

The interim dividend is maintained at 0.4p.

Ireland

The Financial Times plans to publish this survey on Wednesday, November 24.



This survey will be of interest to the 37%* of senior business people in Ireland who are FT readers and will reach over a million FT readers worldwide.

*Data source: ERS 1993

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Profit-taking unsettles equity market

By Steve Thompson

THE London equity market battled in vain against downward forces yesterday and was finally forced to concede ground after the recent outburst in performance which has seen share prices hitting new records for the past two trading sessions.

Some senior market traders emphasised, however, that a modest decline in prices yesterday was merely a period of consolidation before a further strong upward move.

Others were at odds with the bullish view, and said the London market was only one of a number of international markets that had run too far too fast and that a substantial correction was on the cards.

The bearish pressures affecting London included a handful of rather gloomy surveys on retail sales and consumer confidence from influential sources such as the Confederation of British Industry and Gallup, as well as a sharp decline on the recently buoyant Hong Kong stock market.

The two surveys tended to increase worries about the market that the recovery in the UK economy may be faltering, a view which began to gather strength last week in the wake of a batch of economic data showing a decline in manufacturing output and

another rise in inflation. There was very little pressure on share prices as the market opened with traders tentatively moving quotations higher in response to yet another good showing by Wall Street overnight.

The US market performed well on Monday, coming within 10 points or so of its all-time record and was within an ace of bursting into

uncharted territory shortly after London closed yesterday. The FT-SE 100 officially opened just over three points higher before running into a flurry of pressure said to have been triggered by aggressive selling of the Footsie future.

The pressure in the future market was thought by dealers to have represented one of the leading UK securities houses adjusting its market positions

to accommodate a large trading programme subsequently executed in the cash market. At its worst, the Footsie was down almost 14 points and looking extremely ragged.

Once the futures selling was done, however, the market began to regain its composure, to the extent that the Footsie moved briefly back into positive territory at midday.

Sentiment began to falter

again almost immediately, but there was very little selling pressure evident. Prices went into a gentle decline which left the FT-SE 100 index down 8.0 at the close at 3,129.6. The FT-SE Mid 250 index, meanwhile, put on a similarly resilient performance, closing only a fraction off at 3,486.8.

Turnover in the market held up well, in spite of what was seen by some dealers as signs that the market had run out of steam. Some 658.2m shares were traded yesterday, just short of Monday's level, with non-Footsie stocks accounting for more than 40m shares.

The value of customer business transacted on Monday was a creditable £1.3bn, indicating that the big domestic and overseas institutions have continued to pump money into the market.

Drug stocks were the market's undoubted stars yesterday, closely followed by the oil majors, with both sectors responding to the pound's weakness and the consequent strengthening of the dollar.

TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

Company	Volume	Value	Change	Volume	Value	Change	Volume	Value	Change
AD&A Group	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00

Based on 100 shares. Volume and value of shares traded through the SEAI system yesterday only. All figures are rounded down. 1,000 shares = 1,000,000 shares.

Wall St helps drug shares

THE Wall Street factor was one of the main forces fuelling a strong performance in pharmaceutical shares yesterday as US investors boosted confidence in the sector. In London, drugs stocks got off to a confident start on the back of a good overnight performance in the US market. Positive sentiment in the US was boosted by good results from American Home Products and ripples from Merck, which had announced its results the previous day.

Currency considerations with the strength of the dollar also pulled in some US buyers to the stocks.

SmithKline Beecham "A" also had the boost of a strong overnight performance in the US market. The share price rose 1.5p to 414p. Glaxo appreciated 1.5p to 894p and Zeneva advanced 2p to 777p. One analyst put some of Zeneva's gain down to a shortage of stock, however.

Wellcome, which continues to benefit from interest ahead of its New Orleans conference later this week, gained 9p at 770p. Its results are due at the end of next week.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1993

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1993. THE FOLLOWING TABLES LIST THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST SHARE PRICES FOR THE YEAR 1993. THE PRICES ARE IN PENCE PER SHARE. THE TABLES ARE BASED ON THE FT-SE 100 INDEX. THE PRICES ARE AS AT THE CLOSE OF THE MARKET ON OCTOBER 19, 1993.

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to a premium of 118p over the listing price of 170p. The shares closed at 285p with turnover reaching 5.7m, more than one third of yesterday's trading.

Dealers said the shares, which went to around 80 institutions, moved to an immediate substantial premium before gathering momentum during the session. They hit a bid high of 315p in the afternoon before coming back at the close.

Virtuality's strong showing carried on the successful run of market debuts. Last week, Parkside Leisure went to a 6 per cent premium on its first day. It closed a penny ahead yesterday at 133p, up 13p from its float price.

A raft of bearish rumours on Rank Organisation sent the shares tumbling, closing 26p down at 818p in busy turnover of 3m. The first to hit the shares as trading started was a strong rumour that the chief executive had sold shares this week in advance of a meeting with analysts prior to the group going into closed period. However, the company denied the story yesterday, saying the trade was a tax-related bid and breakfast deal and unrelated to the company's performance.

The shares were further undermined by negative press comment over Rank's debt, together with rumours of an impending disposal. The talk added to nervous sentiment ahead of the analyst meeting a week on Friday, when Rank will issue a trading statement.

Among oil stocks, some US buying was reported in Shell and BP, with the former climbing 7p to 708p and BP up 4p to 338p.

Burmah Castrol eased a penny to 780p as BZW announced an auction of just over a million shares that it agreed to take on via the recent enhanced share alternative.

Enterprise Oil continued to enjoy the benefits of several recent buy notes and the price pushed up 9p to 489p. Hardy Oil, which announced an oil discovery in Pakistan, added 3p to 176p.

The market was twitchy over British Gas after a report by a group of independent gas companies pointed to the effect of a monopoly keeping the tariffs up. Its price fell 2p to 325p.

One analyst also pointed to some rotational buying moving through the sector.

Tobacco and financial services group BAT Industries came under pressure late in the day after Philip Morris, its US rival reported a 24.8 per cent decline in third quarter income to \$971m. The company blamed lower cigarette prices brought about by the current price war in the US market. Shares in BAT gave up 10p to 470p, in trade of 3.4m.

The long awaited announcement of the appointment of executive directors at International trading group Loro was well received by the market. Active dealing brought turnover of 5.6m and the

cautions on the stock while James Capel is remains cool towards the sector as a whole.

The recent profit downgrading from Strauss Turnhill for Abbey National continued to exact a toll on the shares and they gave up 8p to 414p.

In a quiet property sector, Hammerson was the main focus of attention as it announced the restructuring of its shares. The details were well received and the ordinary's advanced 14p to 415p and the A's 5p to 374p.

News that BT could generate revenue of around £2bn a year by the end of the decade from video home entertainment services, lifted the shares. They fully closed 5p forward at 464p, the party's 6p up at 215p.

Profit-taking snipped Cable and Wireless back 23p to 932p, and Vodafone's strong run also ran out of steam, the shares 11p down at 560p.

Aero engine maker Rolls-Royce gave up 4p to 1474p after securities house BZW was said to have downgraded profit expectations. Volume at the close was 4.6m.

Defence stocks remained under a cloud as worries that the government would announce wide ranging defence cuts in next month's budget grew. Fears of such a move were heightened by Monday's announcement that the government is to sell two navy dockyards as part of a drive for defence savings.

Rumours that a bear story is stalking Pilkingtons moved through the market although many industry watchers seemed to be unaware of its nature. The shares slipped 4p to 138p in a volume of 138p.

The results of Wolsley pleased the market and its shares gained 15p to close at 822p.

Weakness was seen in Vesper Therapeutics, which lost 6p to 81p. VSEL, off 2p at 835p, and Victoria 3 lighter at 151p.

Among motor stocks, Monday's positive visit to BBA Group by several analysts which was initially seen as positive led to caution yesterday. BZW was among securities houses that were cheered by the visit but analysts at the securities house yesterday shaved the 1994 profits estimate by 25m to 275m, though they left the current year forecast at 260m. BZW cited con-

tract began to drift downwards. Arbitrage positions were opened and the sellers moved in. But the selling brought only a measured fall in the contract, as most of it was done by independent traders and lacked the clout of a withdrawal by institutions.

By mid-morning the contract touched the day's low of 3,138, although later on the 3,145

mark proved a support level and December managed a modest climb-back by lunchtime.

Its close of 3,145 was a couple of points ahead of its fair value premium to cash, which is about 15 points. At 7,813 contracts traded, the volume was in line with recent levels.

Of the stock options, Land Securities was the busiest with 4,911 lots traded.

Other statistics, Page 21

FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices

THE UK SERIES

FT-SE 100	FT-SE MID 250	FT-A ALL-SHARE
3129.6 -8.0	3486.8 -0.1	1545.92 -2.66
Day's change %	Day's change %	Day's change %
Oct 19	Oct 19	Oct 19
Oct 18	Oct 18	Oct 18
Oct 17	Oct 17	Oct 17
Oct 16	Oct 16	Oct 16
Oct 15	Oct 15	Oct 15
Oct 14	Oct 14	Oct 14
Oct 13	Oct 13	Oct 13
Oct 12	Oct 12	Oct 12
Oct 11	Oct 11	Oct 11
Oct 10	Oct 10	Oct 10
Oct 9	Oct 9	Oct 9
Oct 8	Oct 8	Oct 8
Oct 7	Oct 7	Oct 7
Oct 6	Oct 6	Oct 6
Oct 5	Oct 5	Oct 5
Oct 4	Oct 4	Oct 4
Oct 3	Oct 3	Oct 3
Oct 2	Oct 2	Oct 2
Oct 1	Oct 1	Oct 1

Company	Price	Change	Volume	Value	Change	Volume	Value	Change
AD&A Group	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00

Hourly movements

Company	Price	Change	Volume	Value	Change	Volume	Value	Change
AD&A Group	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00

FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry Baskets

Company	Price	Change	Volume	Value	Change	Volume	Value	Change
AD&A Group	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00
Admiral	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00

Additional information on the FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry Baskets is available from the FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry Baskets. The FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry Baskets are available from the FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry Baskets.

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

Other statistics, Page 21

EQUITY FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

FOOTIE futures suffered from directionless trading as dealers struggled to find a clear lead on the outlook for interest rate cuts or the economic recovery, writes Christine Buckley.

The December contract on the FT-SE 100 opened a little above the previous night's close at 3,151, although it was fairly weak and could only

muster a short-lived rally. That was on the back of a little optimism that downbeat CBI comments on the retail sector may force the chancellor of the exchequer's arm on interest rates. The high point of the contract was 3,159 in early trading.

With no strong guidance, however, the general feeling remained mixed and the con-

tract began to drift downwards. Arbitrage positions were opened and the sellers moved in. But the selling brought only a measured fall in the contract, as most of it was done by independent traders and lacked the clout of a withdrawal by institutions.

By mid-morning the contract touched the day's low of 3,138, although later on the 3,145

mark proved a support level and December managed a modest climb-back by lunchtime.

Its close of 3,145 was a couple of points ahead of its fair value premium to cash, which is about 15 points. At 7,813 contracts traded, the volume was in line with recent levels.

Of the stock options, Land Securities was the busiest with 4,911 lots traded.

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS - Cont.										BRITISH FUNDS - Cont.									
Unit	Price	Change	Volume	Value	Change	Volume	Value	Change	Volume	Unit	Price	Change	Volume	Value	Change	Volume			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000	10p	100.00	0.00	1,000	100.00	0.00	1,000			
10p	100.00	0.00																	

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS - Cont.

AMERICANS

Company	Price	Change	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602	601	600	59
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MINES - Cont.[illegible]

1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	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872	-430	1069	329	108.2	16
134	+2	134 ₂	33	32.2	-
720	+26	871	233	76.2	8.8
121	+1	185	254	120.4	2.6
810	-18	98	7	28.9	8
713	+24	313	388	138.8	3.6
459	-22	854	117	453.2	2.6
47	-25	87	900.9	5.5	5
742	+32	913	319	1,005.9	2.9
1620	+60	2188	544	472.2	3.1
87	-7	119	18	8.76	8.4
584 ₄	+14	834	218	658.8	3.7
26	-	172	26	17.2	26
524 ₄	+1.5	525 ₄	25 ₄	6.953	2.5
88	-4	88	18	71.8	5

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CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Dollar recovers against DM

THE US dollar staged a comeback from recent lows against the D-Mark yesterday while the German currency was weaker in Europe as technical positions were adjusted, writes Peter John.

The dollar's revival began in New York on Monday, continued in the Far East and endured through European trading hours yesterday. However, most dealers were at a loss to find any substance behind the move. There was a general acceptance that the dollar had reached a support level which prompted investors to take their profits and buy back the US currency.

The correction began with the Japanese yen against which the dollar fell to around Y105 a fortnight ago. On Monday it moved back to the mid-Y107 level but was unable to break through Y107.50, seen as a significant chart level. It slipped to Y107.05 to the yen from Y107.45 yesterday as the rally shifted to Europe.

It rose to DML64.40 at best against the D-Mark, just below the top of a recent trading range which began at DML58.00. Mr Paul Charkow, global currency analyst at UBS, said: "Once DML59.00 was tested, the tempo of the market

changed. There is a feeling that the gloom has been overdone. The fundamentals are pointing to a stronger dollar, particularly in the light of speculation of lower rates in Europe."

The dollar closed a penny higher in Europe against the German currency at DML63.70. It was also stronger against sterling for much of the day hitting \$1.4890 to the pound before rallying in the afternoon to close at \$1.4920, still up from \$1.4880 previously.

Analysts will be scrutinising the UK retail sales figure for September this morning as the market becomes increasingly obsessed with signals that UK interest rates might soon fall. The D-Mark had benefited from hedging against lower interest rates in Belgium and France last week and slipped yesterday as dealers pocketed profits from the sharp shifts in the European currencies.

The German Bundesbank

will hold its weekly repurchase agreement today and there is a feeling that the central bank could allow its variable lending rate to slip by some 5 basis points to 6.65 per cent. While not significant in itself a lower repo might pave the way for a cut in key rates depending on M3 money supply data this week.

The D-Mark slipped to BF21.81 from BF21.88 against the Belgian franc ahead of the release of details of Belgium's social pact on wages and jobs late yesterday.

It was also weaker against the Italian lira. Dealers said that foreign investors had been buying Italian equities without hedging against further falls in the currency because the lira had reached a recent low and that had helped the currency's recovery. The D-Mark fell to L978.80 from L979.50. Against the French franc, the D-Mark slipped to FF78.6300 from FF78.6500.

EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

Currency	Unit	Rate	% Change
British Pound	£	1.4890	-0.01
French Franc	FF	6.5596	0.00
German Mark	DM	1.4880	-0.01
Italian Lira	L	978.80	-0.08
Japanese Yen	¥	107.05	-0.05
Spanish Peseta	P	166.64	0.00
Swiss Franc	SF	2.00	0.00
US Dollar	\$	1.4920	0.01

Source: Reuters. The central bank rate set by the European Commission. Conversion rates are based on the official rate of 1993. The percentage change is calculated on the basis of the closing rate of the previous day. The percentage change is calculated on the basis of the closing rate of the previous day.

POUND SPOT - FORWARD AGAINST THE POUND

Period	Rate	% Change
Spot	1.4890	-0.01
1 month	1.4890	-0.01
3 months	1.4890	-0.01
6 months	1.4890	-0.01
12 months	1.4890	-0.01

DOLLAR SPOT - FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

Period	Rate	% Change
Spot	1.4890	-0.01
1 month	1.4890	-0.01
3 months	1.4890	-0.01
6 months	1.4890	-0.01
12 months	1.4890	-0.01

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

Period	Rate	% Change
Spot	1.4890	-0.01
1 month	1.4890	-0.01
3 months	1.4890	-0.01
6 months	1.4890	-0.01
12 months	1.4890	-0.01

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Currency	Rate	% Change
British Pound	1.4890	-0.01
French Franc	6.5596	0.00
German Mark	1.4880	-0.01
Italian Lira	978.80	-0.08
Japanese Yen	107.05	-0.05
Spanish Peseta	166.64	0.00
Swiss Franc	2.00	0.00
US Dollar	1.4920	0.01

OTHER CURRENCIES

Currency	Rate	% Change
British Pound	1.4890	-0.01
French Franc	6.5596	0.00
German Mark	1.4880	-0.01
Italian Lira	978.80	-0.08
Japanese Yen	107.05	-0.05
Spanish Peseta	166.64	0.00
Swiss Franc	2.00	0.00
US Dollar	1.4920	0.01

CASH STAYS TIGHT

TIGHT conditions prevailed in the UK money markets yesterday forcing overnight rates high and leading to significant assistance by the Bank of England, writes Peter John.

Dealers said the leading banks were once again unprepared to release collateral in the form of bills. There was some suggestion that issuers of short-term bills - mainly companies needing to borrow cash from commercial banks - might be holding back in the belief that they will be able to borrow money at lower rates soon. As a result, the commercial banks may not have had enough bills to take up the offers of Bank of England help.

UK clearing bank base lending rate 6 per cent from January 25, 1993

Belief that base rates are about to fall was also reflected in the three-month interbank rate which eased slightly.

The daily liquidity shortage was exacerbated by a large round of late assistance on Monday. That was repayable yesterday when the initial shortage forecast of £1.25bn was later revised to £1.6bn.

Among the main factors affecting the position were the take-up of Treasury Bills and paper maturing in official hands, which drained £298m, and Exchequer transactions,

FINANCIAL FUTURES AND OPTIONS

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

LONDON (LIFTS)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

CHICAGO

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (30Y)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (10Y)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (5Y)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (2Y)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (1Y)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (6M)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (3M)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (1M)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (30D)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (15D)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (7D)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (1D)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (30N)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (15N)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (7N)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

U.S. TREASURY BONDS (1N)

Contract	Price	% Change
Oil	22.50	-0.10
Gold	380.00	0.00
Silver	15.00	0.00
Platinum	1000.00	0.00

MONEY MARKET FUNDS

Money Market Trust Funds

Fund	Assets	Yield
First State	100.00	5.00
Wellington	100.00	5.00
Investment	100.00	5.00
Capital	100.00	5.00

Money Market Bank Accounts

Bank	Rate
First State	5.00
Wellington	5.00
Investment	5.00
Capital	5.00

Money Market Bank Accounts

Bank	Rate
First State	5.00
Wellington	5.00
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Capital	5.00

Money Market Bank Accounts

Bank	Rate
First State	5.00
Wellington	5.00
Investment	5.00
Capital	5.00

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MONEY MARKETS

Cash stays tight

TIGHT conditions prevailed in the UK money markets yesterday forcing overnight rates high and leading to significant assistance by the Bank of England, writes Peter John.

Dealers said the leading banks were once again unprepared to release collateral in the form of bills. There was some suggestion that issuers of short-term bills - mainly companies needing to borrow cash from commercial banks - might be holding back in the belief that they will be able to borrow money at lower rates soon. As a result, the commercial banks may not have had enough bills to take up the offers of Bank of England help.

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Among the main factors affecting the position were the take-up of Treasury Bills and paper mat

AUSTRIA			FRANCE (continued)			GERMANY (continued)			NETHERLANDS (continued)			SWEDEN (continued)		
October 18	Fl.	Chg.	October 18	Fl.	Chg.	October 18	Fl.	Chg.	October 18	Fl.	Chg.	October 18	Fl.	Chg.
Admiral's Palace	1,765	+10	BNP	1,185	+5	Deutsche Bank	485.50	-70	De Wismann	43	-10	Imvobor B	215	-2
Bank Austria	1,765	+10	BSG	876	-12	Deutsche Bank	1,012.50	-30	COB	68.00	-10	Mo Och Den B	148	-2
Commerzbank P	1,765	+10	Banque Par	277.10	-60	Dresdner Bank	579	-40	COB	101.60	-30	Nobel B	18.50	-1
ESN	8,023	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
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ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	1,258	-3	Banque Par	2,980	-40	Dresdner Bank	173.50	-70	Deutsche Post	185	+20	Robur B	18.50	-1
ESN	833	-4	Banque Par	2,980	-40									

[illegible]**LADA**

Sales	Week	High	Low	Close	Sales	Week	High	Low	Close
9000	Laurant Co	\$94 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	15000	Scotts Inc	\$11 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
9890	Leason Corp	8 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	15630	Seagrass Co	\$57 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2
11110	Lebanon	11 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	15700	Sealed Air	57 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2
55415	Macdonald	65 1/2	59 1/2	59 1/2	14970	Sealed Air	57 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2
33875	Macdonald	33 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	14580	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
24444	Marion B	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
71520	Marion B	71 1/2	71 1/2	71 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
3257	Marion B	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
10230	Marion B	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
6418	Marion B	64 1/2	64 1/2	64 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
8000	Marion B	80 1/2	80 1/2	80 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
17909	Marion B	179 1/2	179 1/2	179 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
112890	Marion B	1128 1/2	1128 1/2	1128 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
51630	Marion B	516 1/2	516 1/2	516 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
23430	Marion B	234 1/2	234 1/2	234 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
12180	Marion B	121 1/2	121 1/2	121 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
14390	Marion B	143 1/2	143 1/2	143 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
12680	Marion B	126 1/2	126 1/2	126 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
44330	Marion B	443 1/2	443 1/2	443 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
29880	Marion B	298 1/2	298 1/2	298 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
30	Marion B	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
23980	Marion B	239 1/2	239 1/2	239 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
36304	Marion B	363 1/2	363 1/2	363 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
7925	Marion B	79 1/2	79 1/2	79 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
10000	Marion B	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
15000	Marion B	150 1/2	150 1/2	150 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
20000	Marion B	200 1/2	200 1/2	200 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
25000	Marion B	250 1/2	250 1/2	250 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
30000	Marion B	300 1/2	300 1/2	300 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
35000	Marion B	350 1/2	350 1/2	350 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
40000	Marion B	400 1/2	400 1/2	400 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
45000	Marion B	450 1/2	450 1/2	450 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
50000	Marion B	500 1/2	500 1/2	500 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
55000	Marion B	550 1/2	550 1/2	550 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
60000	Marion B	600 1/2	600 1/2	600 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
65000	Marion B	650 1/2	650 1/2	650 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
70000	Marion B	700 1/2	700 1/2	700 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
75000	Marion B	750 1/2	750 1/2	750 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
80000	Marion B	800 1/2	800 1/2	800 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
85000	Marion B	850 1/2	850 1/2	850 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
90000	Marion B	900 1/2	900 1/2	900 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
95000	Marion B	950 1/2	950 1/2	950 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
100000	Marion B	1000 1/2	1000 1/2	1000 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
105000	Marion B	1050 1/2	1050 1/2	1050 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
110000	Marion B	1100 1/2	1100 1/2	1100 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
115000	Marion B	1150 1/2	1150 1/2	1150 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
120000	Marion B	1200 1/2	1200 1/2	1200 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
125000	Marion B	1250 1/2	1250 1/2	1250 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
130000	Marion B	1300 1/2	1300 1/2	1300 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
135000	Marion B	1350 1/2	1350 1/2	1350 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
140000	Marion B	1400 1/2	1400 1/2	1400 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
145000	Marion B	1450 1/2	1450 1/2	1450 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
150000	Marion B	1500 1/2	1500 1/2	1500 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
155000	Marion B	1550 1/2	1550 1/2	1550 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
160000	Marion B	1600 1/2	1600 1/2	1600 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
165000	Marion B	1650 1/2	1650 1/2	1650 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
170000	Marion B	1700 1/2	1700 1/2	1700 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
175000	Marion B	1750 1/2	1750 1/2	1750 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
180000	Marion B	1800 1/2	1800 1/2	1800 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
185000	Marion B	1850 1/2	1850 1/2	1850 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
190000	Marion B	1900 1/2	1900 1/2	1900 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
195000	Marion B	1950 1/2	1950 1/2	1950 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
200000	Marion B	2000 1/2	2000 1/2	2000 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
205000	Marion B	2050 1/2	2050 1/2	2050 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
210000	Marion B	2100 1/2	2100 1/2	2100 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
215000	Marion B	2150 1/2	2150 1/2	2150 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
220000	Marion B	2200 1/2	2200 1/2	2200 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
225000	Marion B	2250 1/2	2250 1/2	2250 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
230000	Marion B	2300 1/2	2300 1/2	2300 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
235000	Marion B	2350 1/2	2350 1/2	2350 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
240000	Marion B	2400 1/2	2400 1/2	2400 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
245000	Marion B	2450 1/2	2450 1/2	2450 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
250000	Marion B	2500 1/2	2500 1/2	2500 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
255000	Marion B	2550 1/2	2550 1/2	2550 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
260000	Marion B	2600 1/2	2600 1/2	2600 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
265000	Marion B	2650 1/2	2650 1/2	2650 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
270000	Marion B	2700 1/2	2700 1/2	2700 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
275000	Marion B	2750 1/2	2750 1/2	2750 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
280000	Marion B	2800 1/2	2800 1/2	2800 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
285000	Marion B	2850 1/2	2850 1/2	2850 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
290000	Marion B	2900 1/2	2900 1/2	2900 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
295000	Marion B	2950 1/2	2950 1/2	2950 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
300000	Marion B	3000 1/2	3000 1/2	3000 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
305000	Marion B	3050 1/2	3050 1/2	3050 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
310000	Marion B	3100 1/2	3100 1/2	3100 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
315000	Marion B	3150 1/2	3150 1/2	3150 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
320000	Marion B	3200 1/2	3200 1/2	3200 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
325000	Marion B	3250 1/2	3250 1/2	3250 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
330000	Marion B	3300 1/2	3300 1/2	3300 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
335000	Marion B	3350 1/2	3350 1/2	3350 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
340000	Marion B	3400 1/2	3400 1/2	3400 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
345000	Marion B	3450 1/2	3450 1/2	3450 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
350000	Marion B	3500 1/2	3500 1/2	3500 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
355000	Marion B	3550 1/2	3550 1/2	3550 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
360000	Marion B	3600 1/2	3600 1/2	3600 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
365000	Marion B	3650 1/2	3650 1/2	3650 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
370000	Marion B	3700 1/2	3700 1/2	3700 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
375000	Marion B	3750 1/2	3750 1/2	3750 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
380000	Marion B	3800 1/2	3800 1/2	3800 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
385000	Marion B	3850 1/2	3850 1/2	3850 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
390000	Marion B	3900 1/2	3900 1/2	3900 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
395000	Marion B	3950 1/2	3950 1/2	3950 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
400000	Marion B	4000 1/2	4000 1/2	4000 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
405000	Marion B	4050 1/2	4050 1/2	4050 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
410000	Marion B	4100 1/2	4100 1/2	4100 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
415000	Marion B	4150 1/2	4150 1/2	4150 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
420000	Marion B	4200 1/2	4200 1/2	4200 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
425000	Marion B	4250 1/2	4250 1/2	4250 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
430000	Marion B	4300 1/2	4300 1/2	4300 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
435000	Marion B	4350 1/2	4350 1/2	4350 1/2	14570	Sherrill Co	85 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2</

197677	Petro Can	\$12 ⁷ / ₈
238195	Phillips Env	\$7
6867	Pioneer Mt	29

4 pm class October 19									
1296910	NonResident	\$531.74	30%	31%	7%				
60480	Poco Pk	\$38.00	30%	31%	7%				
47746	Power Corp	\$28.00	28%	28%	28%				
53000	Power Corp	\$28.00	28%	28%	28%				
124082	Ranger On	\$7.74	7%	7%	7%				
3000	Ranchway	\$15.18	15%	16%	16%				
445	Realty	\$4.45	4%	4%	4%				
300	Rehman S	\$30.00	30%	30%	30%				
114070	Rehman S	\$30.00	30%	30%	30%				
123260	Repsco Int	\$30.00	30%	30%	30%				
6840	Repsco Int	\$22.22	22%	22%	22%				
300	Repsco Int	\$30.00	30%	30%	30%				
268077	Repsco Int	\$26.81	26%	26%	26%				
300	Rehman S	\$30.00	30%	30%	30%				
70380	Rehman S	\$10.00	10%	10%	10%				
147600	Rehman S	\$14.76	14%	14%	14%				
194021	SilverCrest A	\$8.75	7%	8%	8%				
305856	SilverCrest A	\$14.14	12%	12%	12%				
18000	SilverCrest A	\$10.00	10%	10%	10%				
147018	Stoneybrook	\$14.70	12%	12%	12%				
12000	Stoneybrook	\$12.00	10%	10%	10%				
49260	Stoneybrook	\$4.92	4%	4%	4%				
6800	Stoneybrook	\$6.80	6%	6%	6%				
50500	Stoneybrook	\$5.05	4%	4%	4%				
37000	Stoneybrook	\$3.70	3%	3%	3%				
11300	Stoneybrook	\$1.13	1%	1%	1%				
23838	Valentini	\$23.84	20%	20%	20%				
Total Sales \$5,148,051 *****									

CES

	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	1993	
	19	18	17	14	MEDX	LOW
AUSTRALIA						
AN Uncovered (11/1/93)	1079.5	206.5	107.1	206.2	206.5/0 (19/1)	146.0/0 (13/1)
AN Mining (17/1/93)	117.2	108.4	103.7	105.7	104.0/2 (2/1)	104.0/1 (1/1)
AUSTRIA						
AGG (12/1/93)	616.52	415.78	403.83	404.0	416.2/2 (1/1)	330.3/1 (1/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	1078.29	1077.00	1043.93	1033.94	1078.23 (19/1)	712.0/1 (1/1)
BELGIUM						
AGG (12/1/93)	1275.86	1381.45	1370.00	1382.71	1381.55 (19/1)	1125.86 (19/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	287.87	337.35	325.76	334.12	336.25 (19/1)	309.11 (1/1)
FINLAND						
AGG (20/1/93)	1500.1	1512.2	1500.5	1489.3	1512.30 (19/1)	845.10 (23/1)
FRANCE						
CGX Uncovered (11/1/93)	591.55	590.95	588.00	588.00	600.51 (19/1)	474.21 (1/1)
CGX AG (13/1/93)	2147.32	2144.89	2135.25	2113.88	2216.48 (19/1)	1722.21 (1/1)
GERMANY						
AGG (12/1/93)	777.73	798.00	774.00	768.00	782.09 (19/1)	588.00 (14/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	2238.0	2242.0	2217.1	2181.7	2248.00 (19/1)	1984.30 (1/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	2028.79	2020.23	2000.00	1980.07	2033.52 (19/1)	1800.39 (1/1)
HONG KONG						
Long Kong Bank (17/1/93)	6951.41	671.31	676.05	641.40	6933.13 (19/1)	5437.30 (1/1)
HUNGARY						
AGG (20/1/93)	1171.80	1735.08	1735.04	1722.82	1735.84 (19/1)	1171.80 (19/1)
INDIA						
AGG (20/1/93)	598.04	598.07	597.89	598.04	603.00 (19/1)	449.33 (1/1)
BNB (19/1/93)	1284.0	1257.91	1272.0	1251.9	1283.00 (19/1)	882.00 (1/1)
ITALY						
AGG (12/1/93)	2000.01	2007.21	2014.74	2000.91	2114.11 (13/1)	1493.55 (25/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	1844.48	1846.00	1854.41	1843.31	1920.00 (19/1)	1200.00 (1/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	2055.12	2126.52	2093.03	2111.84	2094.87 (19/1)	1861.72 (1/1)
JAPAN						
AGG (20/1/93)	606.18	618.20	627.45	610.23	627.00 (19/1)	418.52 (13/1)
NETHERLANDS						
AGG (20/1/93)	380.4	380.4	380.4	380.4	380.49 (19/1)	380.70 (1/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	380.4	380.7	380.0	380.0	380.49 (19/1)	380.70 (1/1)
NORWAY						
AGG (20/1/93)	1009.00	1002.00	999.00	970.34	1009.00 (19/1)	869.10 (1/1)
PERU						
AGG (20/1/93)	2130.00	2167.05	2175.25	2136.75	2167.05 (19/1)	1220.00 (1/1)
SINGAPORE						
AGG (20/1/93)	552.91	552.97	551.18	543.64	555.67 (19/1)	540.10 (13/1)
SWITZERLAND						
AGG (20/1/93)	1750.00	1767.00	1760.00	1760.00	1760.00 (19/1)	1750.00 (1/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	471.04	467.10	463.00	459.00	477.00 (19/1)	450.00 (1/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	747.50	747.13	749.32	752.77	773.55 (19/1)	625.00 (1/1)
SPAIN						
AGG (20/1/93)	300.36	300.31	299.73	295.74	304.00 (19/1)	215.00 (1/1)
UNITED STATES						
AGG (20/1/93)	1287.0	1287.8	1281.8	1268.8	1287.00 (19/1)	878.10 (28/1)
SWITZERLAND						
AGG (20/1/93)	1125.18	1125.34	1122.70	1133.00	1133.00 (19/1)	904.00 (1/1)
AGG (20/1/93)	885.43	930.34	917.79	925.18	930.34 (19/1)	870.00 (1/1)
TAIWAN						
AGG (20/1/93)	3072.18	4081.47	4048.97	4014.87	3613.38 (19/1)	3084.81 (1/1)
THAILAND						
AGG (20/1/93)	1190.56	1158.80	1161.57	1127.37	1110.58 (19/1)	816.84 (1/1)
WORLD						
M2 Chd (16/1/93)	804.3	800.0	807.1	805.6	807.10 (19/1)	480.00 (1/1)
M2 Chd (16/1/93)	1152.32	1155.51	1145.07	1151.51	1155.51 (19/1)	882.73 (1/1)
* Based on official statistics. * Domestic. * Calculated at 16:00 GMT.						

From values of all indices on 100 except: Austria (100), Belgium (100), France (100), Germany (100), Hong Kong (100), India (100), Italy (100), Japan (100), Netherlands (100), Norway (100), Peru (100), Singapore (100), Switzerland (100), Taiwan (100), Thailand (100), United States (100), World (100).

Active Stocks

Stocks	Closing	Change
Traded	Prices	on day
Mitsubishi Hwy	1.7m 878	-7
Sumitomo	1.7m 878	+8
Yoshida Corp	1.8m 857	
Asahi Shimbun E and	1.8m 1,600	
Yachi	1.6m 841	-1

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE PRICES

4.577 class October 19

[illegible]

Continued on next p.

July, 1945

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

2 pm close October 19

Lot	Qty	Stock	Uv. E	100s	High	Low	Lost	Qty
103	1	Discrete	0.00	6.1000	03	07	015	3

[illegible]

7	TJ Int	0.44	181	189	452	294	2	+26
7	Tolson Med	17	4877				6	+9
7	Topsy Air	0.2715	1040	374	575	572	14	+1
7	Topsy Bus	31	46	12	13	13	13	+2
7	Topsy Car	0.3235	35	3762	81	57	8	+2
7	TPI Enter	34	2850	107	102	109	10	+0
7	Treasury	1	15	29	15	15	15	+2
15	Transcom	0.88	15	187	647	423	42	-2
7	Transcon	35	284				3	+3
7	Transit	1.80	1304	114	11	11	11	+1
7	Transit&S	1.80	1304	114	11	11	11	+1
7	Transp Lab	15	1300	113	11	11	11	+1
7	Transworld A	0.04	1484	234	23	23	23	+4
- U -								
7	US Hitter	0.88	191	441	42	43	43	+2
7	Unibak	3	2956				8	+3
7	Unicredit	0.88	16	185	24	18	18	+4
7	US Trust	1.80	115	104	34	33	34	+1
7	United Sci	0.40	13	201	20	20	20	+1
7	Union	0.20	10	14	22	23	24	+4
7	Univis	1.80	15	277	4	40	43	+2
7	US Power	0.88	11	274	24	25	25	+4
7	US Energy	1.80	198	198	5	5	5	+0
7	USST Corp	0.32	3	988	17	10	10	+0
7	Utek Ind	17	183				17	+1
7	Utel Telco	4	7	37			37	+1
7	Utile	13	432	67	64	67	64	+2
- V -								
7	Volleyball	43	290	605	681	681	681	+2
7	Volleyball	0.20	127	124			124	+1

Comanche	28	247	214	107	21	-1	Intergroup	200330	161	150	150	150	-1	Paccar	1.00	20	176	63	62	62	-1	Warner En	0.06	21	573	459	28	28	-1	
Comanche	44	510	251	251	251	-1	Intergroup	28 8887	114	104	11	11	-1	Packback	0.85	20	176	63	62	62	-1	Warner En	0.06	21	573	459	28	28	-1	
Comanche	1.28	28	28	40	40	40	Intergroup	32	250	47	74	74	-1	Pacific T	1.32	127	228	28	27	28	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1	
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.20	12089	63	67	62	62	-1	Pacific T	1.32	127	228	28	27	28	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	8	1008	5	4	4	4	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
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Comanche	0.8	8	8	8	8	8	Intergroup	0.32	28	28	28	28	28	-1	Paramet	0.62	2735	41	41	41	41	-1	Westpac	0.27	67	67	67	67	67	-1
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Comanche	0.8	8	8																											

AMERICA

US stocks mixed in midsession trading

Wall Street

US share prices were mixed in moderate trading yesterday as investors struggled to digest the implications of good economic news, higher bond yields and the latest quarterly earnings, writes Patrick Harverson in New York.

At 1 p.m. the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 5.59 at 3,547.90. The more broadly based Standard & Poor's 500 was 0.50 lower at 497.95, while the Amex composite was down 2.62 at 478.45, and the Nasdaq composite down 5.83 at 777.23 on profit-taking. Trading volume on the NYSE was 164m shares by 1 p.m.

In recent weeks secondary and broader indices have outperformed the Dow as investors searched for inexpensive stocks and shied away from the shares of companies whose earnings are tied closely to economic cycles. This trend pushed the S&P 500, the Amex composite and the Nasdaq

composite to record highs, while the Dow stayed below its all-time peak.

In the last two days, however, the trend has been reversed, with Dow stocks faring well and secondary and other issues falling from their recent summits. This partly explains why Dow and cyclical stocks were mostly firmer by early afternoon yesterday as the shares of mid-sized and small companies and growth-oriented technology firms languished.

Another reason why the markets failed to make a decisive move in any direction yesterday was the conflicting influences of good economic news - housing starts rose strongly in September - and higher bond yields. Also, the latest round of corporate earnings reports were a mix of the good and the bad.

Among individual stocks, Philip Morris fell 1 1/2% to 52 1/2% in volume of 2.3m shares after the group announced a 25 per cent drop in net income for the

third quarter and warned about further difficulties in the fourth quarter.

Citicorp rose 3/4% to 38 1/2% in volume of 3m shares on news of a sharp improvement in third quarter earnings to 97 cents a share. Other banks were also higher on strong quarterly results, including Wells Fargo, which jumped 3 1/2% to 11 1/2% and Chemical Bank, up 1/4% to 4 1/2%.

A range of industrial stocks lifted the Dow, among them Caterpillar, up 1 1/2% to 82 1/2%, Goodyear Tire & Rubber, up 1 1/2% to 46 1/2% and Sears, Roebuck, up 1 1/2% to 57.

Canada

TORONTO eased further in quiet midday trading as broad-based profit-taking took most sectors lower.

The TSX-300 composite index fell 11.52 to 4,177.09 in turnover of 27.2m shares valued at \$2.7bn. Declines led advances 345 to 271, with 290 stocks flat.

EUROPE

Continental bourses consolidate gains

MANY of the continent's bourses took a breather yesterday from the bull run, writes Our Markets Staff.

FRANKFURT took a pause from its record breaking ways with most analysts commenting that the current rally still has a long way to go. Opinion remained divided as to whether the Bundesbank would cut interest rates at its regular council meeting tomorrow. Some commentators said yesterday that they believed a cut would not happen until the release of M3 and inflation data, due out over the next few days, and that November was the most probable date for an announcement.

The DAX index moved from an intraday low of 2,021 to close down 6.56 at 2,026.76. Turnover was DM9.5bn, with institutional funds reported to have stayed on the sidelines.

In a day bereft of corporate news BMW staged a turnaround with a gain of DM12 to DM613; the stock has been lagging behind other motor sector shares.

In contrast Volkswagen shed DM7.00 to DM375.30 and Daimler DM6.50 to DM740.00.

PARIS staged firm although turnover slipped back from the level seen at the start of the week. The CAC-40 index added 2.33 to 2,147.22, after a day's high of 2,150 and a low of 2,137. Turnover was estimated at FF4.5bn after Monday's FF4.5bn.

EuroDisney shed a further FF1.55 to FF31.65 as selling appreciated after its recent news of job cuts. James Capel in London commented that while the redundancy scheme will have a one off negative impact on profits, the news had already been largely discounted. "The more pressing problem is its future funding," the brokers said.

Bouygues was down FF4.44 to FF708 ahead of reporting a first half profit of FF79m against FF108m in the same year ago period after the close of trading.

Elf Aquitaine regained FF4.10 to FF458.10 as it announced that it was planning to restart production at its Nigerian facility.

AMSTERDAM remained in positive territory with the CSE Tendency index at one point going reaching a new record

FT-SE - Actuaries Share Indices

		THE EUROPEAN SERIES						
October 19		Open	11.30	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	Close
Hourly changes								
FT-SE Eurotrack 100		1347.14	1345.52	1346.08	1346.10	1346.71	1345.25	1346.27
FT-SE Eurotrack 200		1415.93	1414.79	1415.08	1414.89	1413.97	1411.79	1414.54
		Oct 18						
FT-SE Eurotrack 100		1347.38	1330.52	1315.57	1317.05	1317.05	1315.91	1315.91
FT-SE Eurotrack 200		1418.14	1407.10	1391.70	1391.36	1391.36	1389.81	1389.81

Base value 1000 (2010/1993) High/Low: 100 - 1347.14, 200 - 1415.93 Low/Low: 100 - 1346.20, 200 - 1414.61

high, before closing 0.4 higher at 122.5.

Alko was one of the day's main losers, falling FT2.40 or FT1.84-40, as some investors booked profits after reaching a new record high on Monday.

ZURICH encountered profit-taking after its run of seven consecutive record highs, and the SMI index finished 2.9 lower at 2,660.7 as some of the early losses were pared.

Nestlé continued as the most actively traded stock, adding SF2 to SF71.174.

CS Holding, whose shares are viewed by some analysts as undervalued, rose SF15 to SF73.85.

current trading month, and the Comit index eased 0.94 to 588.94.

Fiat fell LI45 or 3.6 per cent to LI.855; the shares had risen by 10 per cent rise over the previous two sessions since its rights issue began.

Against the downward trend, the new Ferruzzi shares added LI.533 to LI.51.278 after their recent sharp falls. Montedison rose LI1 to LI.873.00.

VIENNA was modestly firmer with some profit-taking in evidence. The ATX index put on 0.57 points to 1,078.23 with Flughafen Wien down Sch93 to Sch531.

COPENHAGEN put on another 0.23 in the CFX index to 100.79 but Sophus Berendsen built on Monday's fall, off a

Brazil ahead in early trading as Mexico declines

BRAZIL was stronger at midsession, with the Bovespa index in São Paulo up 2.7 per cent, following a fall of some 9.5 per cent on Monday. Observers said that equities were likely to remain volatile over the next few days.

Telebras, the telecom group, was one of the day's gainers, rising 2.3 per cent.

Mexico eased on profit-taking, having set

record highs in three consecutive sessions. The IPC index was down 5.93 at 1,965.58.

Stocks have risen steadily over the past two weeks as investors have been drawn to an undervalued equity market and as the Nafta no longer appeared to be a paralysing force.

The market was led lower by Telcel, which lost ground in New York dealings.

ASIA PACIFIC

Hong Kong pauses after 20.9 per cent surge

Tokyo

SHARE prices remained almost flat after a volatile session dominated by public fund and arbitrage buying and profit-taking by dealers, writes Emiko Terazono in Tokyo.

The Nikkei average lost 2.30 at 20,069.91 after a low of 20,042.40 in the morning and a high of 20,204.02 in the afternoon session.

The index firmed immediately after the opening on public fund buying, and declined thereafter before rising again on purchases by arbitrageurs. After peaking in the afternoon, dealers, who built up long positions together with buying by public funds, liquidated positions as other institutional investors were reluctant to follow suit.

Volume was 208.7m shares, against 218m. Losers led gains by 585 to 323, with 244 issues unchanged, and the Topix index of all first section stocks shed 4.33 to 1,644.46. In London the ISE/Nikkei 60 index edged up 0.71 to 1,280.94.

Traders said that while investors were unwilling to take short positions by selling stock, many were still reluctant to buy shares due to the prolonged recovery of the economy.

Financials, telecommunications and non-life insurance stocks were the leading losers of the day.

Profit-taking left Daiwa Securities down Y40 at Y1,400 after having been recently bought on its upward revision of interim earnings. Other brokers also weakened, with Nomura Securities receding Y40 to Y1,390 and Nikko Securities Y10 to Y1,300.

The telecom sector, which had risen on the merger between Bell Atlantic and Tele-

SOUTH AFRICA

GOLD shares saw strong early gains but were held back by the close as the billion price failed to hold overnight levels, but the index still finished 43 ahead at 1,750. The industrial index gained 5 at 4,519 and the overall index added 15 at 3,916.

Communications Inc in the US, lost ground. Nippon Telegraph and Telephone declined Y16,000 to Y894,000 after three consecutive days of gains, and DDI slipping Y50,000 to Y8,73m on the second session.

Other telecom linked issues were also easier, with Oki Electric, the day's most active issue, down Y1 to Y568 and Fujitsu losing Y4 to Y583.

Entertainment related stocks retreated on reports that police were investigating Heiwa, a pachinko (Japanese pinball) machine maker listed on the second section, for illegally modifying its game machines.

Heiwa fell Y140 to Y4,100 and Sega Enterprises, which supplies electronic games to Heiwa, lost Y30 to Y9,870. Konami, another video machine maker, declined Y130 to Y3,870.

JB East linked stocks gained ground, Nippon Signal rose

Y30 to Y1,510 and Kyoson Electric, another railway signal maker, firmed Y10 to Y1,280.

In Osaka, the OSE average

dipped 45.84 to 22,159.96 in volume of 17.5m shares.

Roundup

MANY Pacific Rim markets took a pause after the record-breaking runs of recent days.

HONG KONG gave up 1.8 per cent after the bull run that has seen a cumulative rise since September 26 of 20.9 per cent. The Hang Seng index relinquished 169.72 to 3,861.41 in turnover that dipped to HK\$9.04bn from Monday's record HK\$10.20bn.

Mr Michael Franklin of James Capel commented that the market had begun to look vulnerable to a short-term consolidation, while the index breached the 9,000 level. How-

ever, he believed that US and Japanese investors remained enthusiastic and would continue to provide liquidity for a further advance.

MANILA declined for the first time in eight days, the composite index shedding 28.96 to 2,159.99 as PLDT lost 30 pesos to 1,820 pesos.

TAIPEI fell 2.3 per cent in reaction to news that the Finance Ministry and ruling party legislators had agreed to delay consideration of a stock transaction tax cut until January. The weighted index ended 91.82 off at 3,970.18.

AUSTRALIA was dragged lower by industrial stocks and a weaker futures market. The All Ordinaries index slipped 10.0 to 2,075.5.

SINGAPORE saw an end of the record-setting run of the previous six sessions after heavy selling of Malaysian

further DK2 to DK474, following the announcement that it was reducing its stake in Rentokil of the UK.

STOCKHOLM gave way to profit-taking which left the Affarsvärlden index 0.8 lower at 1,397.0 in heavy trading.

The market had opened firm before a wave of selling in Astra and Ericsson shares sent the market lower.

Ericsson B shares retreated SKr4 to SKr457 while Astra A shares slipped SKr2 to SKr451.

Interest rate sensitive banks and insurers put in a better performance. S-E Banken A shares added SKr2 to SKr457. BRUSSELS saw profit-taking which left the Bel-20 index 6.15 lower at 1,978.86 in turnover of Bfr2.16bn. Analysts believe that talks on the social pact, which are scheduled to begin in coming days are unlikely to have much impact on the market. However, they added that foreigners were likely to be ready to pick up shares if Belgian investors became sellers due to fears about the outcome of the talks.

Written and edited by John M. and Michael Morgan.

Greek equities weather change of government

Kerim Hope on the mood in post-election Athens

The Athens stock market has weathered last week's change of government in Greece with unexpected resilience.

The opposition socialist victory in the October 10 general election provoked a rush of gloomy economic predictions. Some expected to be confirmed when Mr Andreas Papandreu, the new prime minister, declared that the planned sale of 49 per cent of OTE, the state telecommunications monopoly, was being called off.

Cancellation will mean revenue losses amounting to more than Dr300bn (\$1.2bn), bringing the government's borrowing requirement for 1993 to around 13 per cent of GDP, against a target of 10.5 per cent.

The sale of a 35 per cent stake in OTE to a foreign telecom operator was forecast to raise at least Dr220bn, while the flotation of another 14 per cent on the bourse had been unofficially valued at Dr3bn.

Since plunging some 14 per cent after the election was announced, the index has climbed back steadily, closing yesterday at 852.

Although the market has failed to match its midsummer peak, when it reached 956, it is still 28 per cent up from the start of the year.

Mr Dimitris Verrotopoulos, an analyst at Alpha Brokerage, said: "Greek equities are good value, with p/e ratios at 10 to 13 per cent, compared to other emerging markets."

The market's confidence is based on the assumption that the new government will maintain its predecessor's commitment to reducing inflation and the public sector deficit under

the Maastricht requirements for European economic union.

Analysts also seem convinced that the socialists will reverse their privatisation policy, at least where partial flotations of state enterprises are concerned, in order to raise funds for investment.

Mr John Markopoulos, chairman of Sigma Securities, said: "Our perception is that the government will soon be needing cash for OTE's modernisation programme. The constraints on public spending will oblige them to turn to the stock market, and we expect a minority stake in the company

to be floated next year."

The optimistic mood is underpinned by anticipation of a flood of EC funding for infrastructure projects, starting early in 1994. With EC inflows expected to total between Ecw10m and Ecw20m over the next six years, construction, cement and building equipment companies should benefit. Three construction companies, likely candidates for contracts to be awarded under the new EC funding package, are seeking listings next month. Asgk is to raise Dr1.8bn, Proodeftiki Dr1.1bn and Themeliodomi Dr1.5bn through the bourse.

Given these companies' prospects for growth, and the small size of the issues, demand is expected to be lively. However, so long as interest rates stay high, the outlook is less promising for larger companies considering large rights issues.

First-half profits were lower than forecast, even in the food sector where the recession had previously made little impact on sales. In the banking sector, where steady if unspectacular gains were recorded, caution prevails.

Commercial Bank, the second-largest state bank, covered a Dr45bn of a planned Dr50bn rights issue launched last month, with many small shareholders said to be reluctant to participate. Following the election, Credit Bank, the country's largest private bank, decided to postpone a Dr30bn rights issue which included a sizeable tranche offered to institutions abroad.

FT-ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

Jointly compiled by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and NatWest Securities Limited in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MARKETS	MONDAY OCTOBER 18 1993										TUESDAY OCTOBER 19 1993										DOLLAR INDEX	
	US Dollar Index	Day's Change	Pound Sterling Index	Yen Index	DM Index	Local Currency Index	% chg on day	Gross Div. Yield	US Dollar Index	Pound Sterling Index	Yen Index	DM Index	Local Currency Index	1993 High	1993 Low	Year ago (approx)						
Australia (68)	155.21	+0.2	129.81	105.42	131.29	166.19	+0.5	3.31	154.83	131.77	104.77	129.96	165.45	155.21	117.29	118.97						
Austria (17)	184.47	+2.0	162.57	125.29	150.04	152.78	+2.7	1.01	180.87	177.30	122.40	151.82	151.89	184.47	131.15	150.71						
Belgium (42)	152.91	+0.2	151.34	103.85	126.34	134.44	+0.6	4.28	152.61	149.58	103.26	129.10	133.61	152.76	131.19	157.65						
Canada (107)	129.87	+0.8	128.33	98.27	108.93	124.09	+0.3	2.71	129.18	126.61	97.40	108.41	124.49	130.28	111.41	113.85						
Denmark (32)	235.96	+0.3	233.63	160.27	189.59	212.13	+0.3	1.07	236.70	232.02	160.17	198.88	211.43	239.12	186.11	185.46						
Finland (23)	122.49	+1.2	121.35	83.20	103.82	145.96	+0.6	0.71	120.96	118.95	81.65	101.53	145.05	122.49	85.50	80.39						
France (67)	165.82	+0.5	162.85	114.47	142.56	152.09	+0.3	3.23	165.72	165.72	114.47	141.91	151.61	165.82	142.56	152.09						
Germany (60)	138.76	+0.1	134.40	82.24	114.86	114.86	+0.9	1.86	138.64	132.96	81.20	113.85	113.85	136.13	101.59	105.54						
Hong Kong (55)	357.10	+3.8	353.42	242.54	302.07	354.19	+3.6	2.25	344.73	337.91	232.27	299.37	341.81	357.10	218.82	251.57						
Ireland (14)	172.24	+0.1	170.47	118.99	145.89	168.25	+0.8	3.33	172.40	168.38	118.68	144.71	167.18	174.50	123.25	130.87						
Italy (70)	72.08	-0.2	71.35	48.98	80.98	85.50	+2.1	1.95	70.99	69.29	47.88	69.33	63.75	72.08	53.78	55.91						
Japan (469)	152.80	-0.7	151.29	129.27	103.78	175.03	-0.3	0.80	153.85	150.79	104.09	129.74	104.09	153.85	100.75	107.71						
Malaysia (68)	447.05	-1.8	442.45	303.63	378.13	437.92	-1.8	1.58	455.41	446.40	308.15	382.24	445.11	455.41	251.68	253.94						
Mexico (19)	1779.90	+0.5	1781.59	1208.82	1505.97	1608.04	+0.5	0.81	1770.59	1735.55	1198.11	1486.77	1624.34	1779.90	1410.30	1267.95						

DERIVATIVES

Wednesday October 20 1993

Limitless possibilities from
new box of risk-management tricks
Page 2

How to cut the cost
of making hamburgers
Page 11

The development of derivatives business has become the most important strategic goal of the 1990s for banks and securities houses with global ambitions. Tracy Corrigan examines one of the most dynamic growth areas in financial markets

Moving on to centre stage

ONLY three years into the decade, the 1990s are already being dubbed the decade of derivatives. Virtually all banks, securities houses and other financial institutions with international ambitions have identified the derivatives market as a crucial strategic area.

Non-financial companies are making increasing use of derivatives to hedge their exposure to foreign exchange and interest rate fluctuations. Slower off the mark, institutional investors are also starting to warm to derivative instruments, which can be particularly useful for asset allocation.

At the same time, the new emphasis on derivatives is having a strong impact on other areas within the banking and securities business, fuelling, for example, advances in technology, and causing banks to reassess their attitudes to risk. "The strategic question to ask about any bank right now is: have they embraced derivatives? And if not, have they found anything else to embrace instead?" says one analyst.

The market has already come through a period of rapid development. The notional amount of futures contracts traded annually on the world's exchanges is around \$140,000bn, while the notional amount of over-the-counter swaps outstanding is about \$4,500bn.



Patrick de Saint-Aignan: the pace of innovation will remain high

Futures and options listed on exchanges are standardised contracts, based on an underlying market, which are traded on and cleared through an exchange.

Over-the-counter products, such as swaps and options, can be tailored to suit a particular user's needs, and are bilateral agreements between two separate counterparties.

There are now liquid futures contracts based on most of the world's large stock and bond markets. In some cases, the futures markets are more actively traded than the under-

lying instruments on which they are based.

New markets are still developing in Asia and Latin America, but in the US, and to a lesser extent in Europe, futures exchanges are already highly developed.

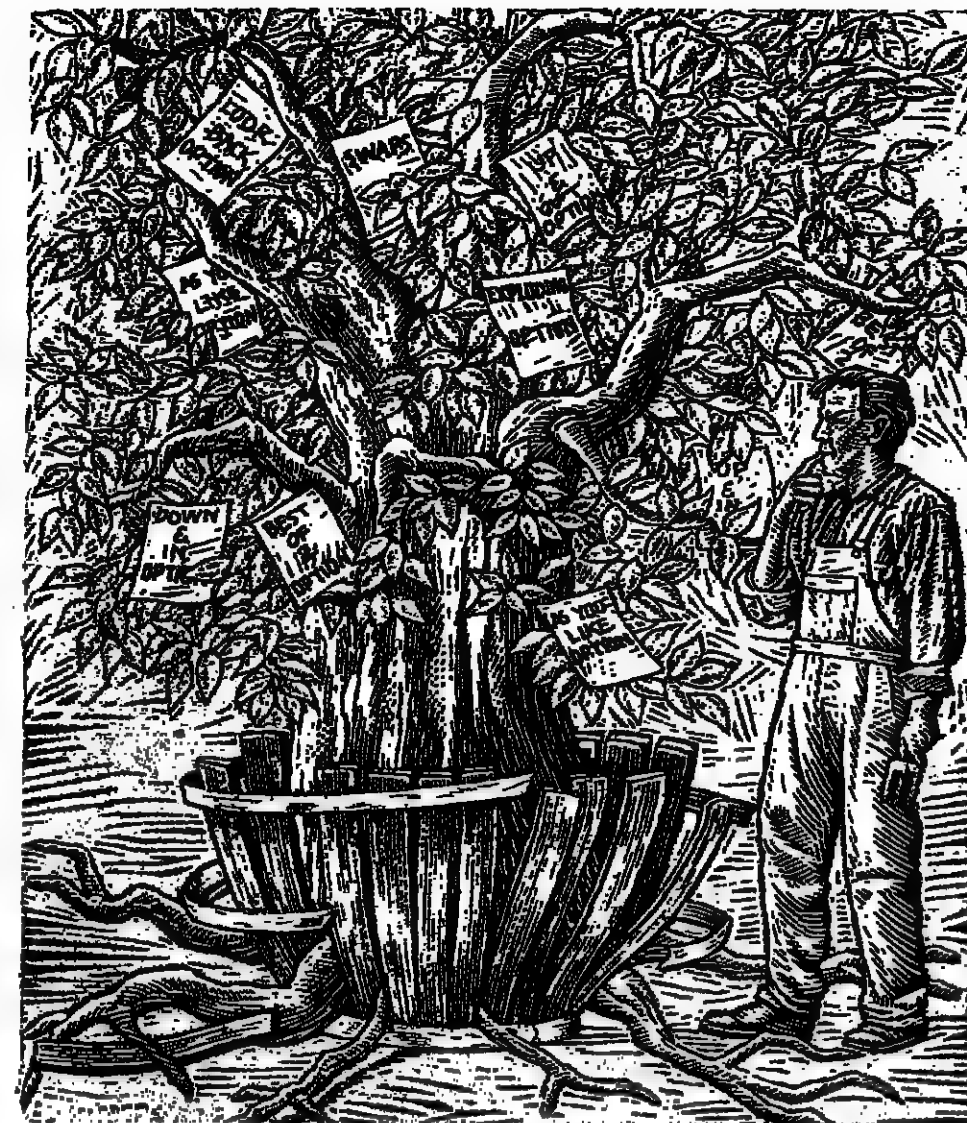
"The real emphasis has to be on organic growth," said Mr Daniel Hodson, chief executive of the London International Financial Futures Exchange, who admits that after establishing a range of European products over the past 10 years the universe of potentially active new contracts has shrunk.

Futures exchanges are now trying to adapt products from the over-the-counter market, so that they can offer standardised contracts which have some of the flexibility of the OTC market.

For example, the Chicago Board Options Exchange's flex options, which allow standard contracts to be adjusted to suit individual needs, are being imitated by other US exchanges. The line between standardised contracts and highly customised OTC products has become blurred.

"Some would say we compete (with the exchanges) but I see a complementary relationship from which the financial markets benefit. Risks we take from our clients often flow back to the exchanges," says Mr Joseph Bauman, head of business development, global derivatives, at Citibank, and chairman of the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA), the over-the-counter market's trade association. Industry experts believe there is room for further growth, especially in the less mature over-the-counter market.

"If you look at the compound annual growth rates of notional principal volume (in swaps) - 35 per cent per annum for the past three or four years - it's hard to foresee this pace continuing forever, but growth rates will stay high because the community of users continues to expand," said Mr Bauman of Citibank. Many market participants are confident because they believe that, particularly outside the



US, only a small portion of the potential base of fund managers and corporate treasurers has so far been tapped.

"It's like being a car manufacturer, at a time when only 5 per cent of the population has learned to drive," said one specialist. But there is no doubt that the market is becoming increasingly competitive, and products which were once at the cutting edge are now widely available, and at tighter margins.

"The pace of innovation will remain high as dealers continue to devote a large amount

of resources to new products," predicts Mr Patrick de Saint-Aignan, chairman of Morgan Stanley SA in Paris, and a senior member of the Group of Thirty committee which recently reported on the derivatives market. "This is an activity where the dealers have a solution-oriented approach rather than trying to push standardised products."

One reason for this is that banks can charge higher fees for innovative products, particularly when they have stolen the march on their competitors temporarily. "The rate of

growth is slowing but the base it is growing from is getting bigger," said Mr Malcolm Basing, president of SBC Canada and a former chairman of ISDA.

However, he identifies a number of areas where growth potential remains strong, such as commodity swaps and perhaps insurance or credit derivatives.

As well as lending off competitors, the derivatives industry has also come under attack from regulators, who are concerned about the speed of the market's growth and about

potential systemic risk to the banking system.

However, a number of reports this year, for example from the Bank of England, have adopted a more conciliatory tone. "I would not characterise what they [the regulators] have done as backing off. They have taken a major look at derivative activities over the past year and there has been a tempering of the rhetoric that characterised early 1992," said Mr Bauman.

The Group of Thirty report on derivatives published earlier this year set out detailed guidelines on how to manage the risks involved.

"We are still very much under a regulatory glare, but we have convinced them it's a worthwhile business and that it can be managed effectively," said Mr Basing. "We still have to convince them that it is possible for controls to be put in place by smaller players down the line which may have fewer resources."

However, the much lamented regulatory scrutiny has undoubtedly had some positive effects.

First of all, it has concentrated the attention of bankers at board level, some of whom had risen through the ranks in a pre-derivatives era.

Second, the development of risk management techniques for derivatives has in many cases been applied to other areas of banking. "There has been a real awakening to the need to manage risk throughout an institution," said Mr Paul Reyniers, the Coopers & Lybrand partner in charge of global risk management. "If they [banks] can manage risk they have the key tool for capital allocation."

While the continued growth of the market seems certain, it is more difficult to predict the technological changes which will accompany its development. Although the technology of futures trading systems has already advanced substantially, many traders say that no electronic system yet replicates conditions in a trading pit.

However, many traders do believe that electronic trading of some sort will be an increas-

IN THIS SURVEY

- ☐ Interest-rate products
- ☐ The sell side: commercial and investment banks Page 2
- ☐ Currency products
- ☐ Legal issues Page 4
- ☐ Commodity products
- ☐ Equity products Page 5
- ☐ Futures exchanges
- ☐ Clearing Page 6
- ☐ Futures funds
- ☐ Technology Page 7
- ☐ Regulation Page 8
- ☐ Japan
- ☐ Hong Kong Page 9
- ☐ Mexico
- ☐ Emerging markets Page 10
- ☐ Profiles:
 - ☐ Swiss Bank Corporation
 - ☐ McDonald's
 - ☐ London Clearing House Page 11
- ☐ Glossary Page 12

Editorial production: Roy Terry
Illustration: David Brantley

ingly inherent part of the derivatives market in years to come.

Globex, the 24-hour futures trading system jointly developed by Reuters the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade, is yet to establish itself as a global network for trading outside normal exchange hours. But if CME chairman Mr Jack Sandner's vision of "a global trading village" is eventually realised, it could prove a vehicle for a further net increase in trading volume.

It's a big, bad, volatile world out there. Risk has grown

bigger than ever before. As has opportunity.

No company should tackle risk single-handed.

You need all the help you can get.

Never go one-on-one
with risk.

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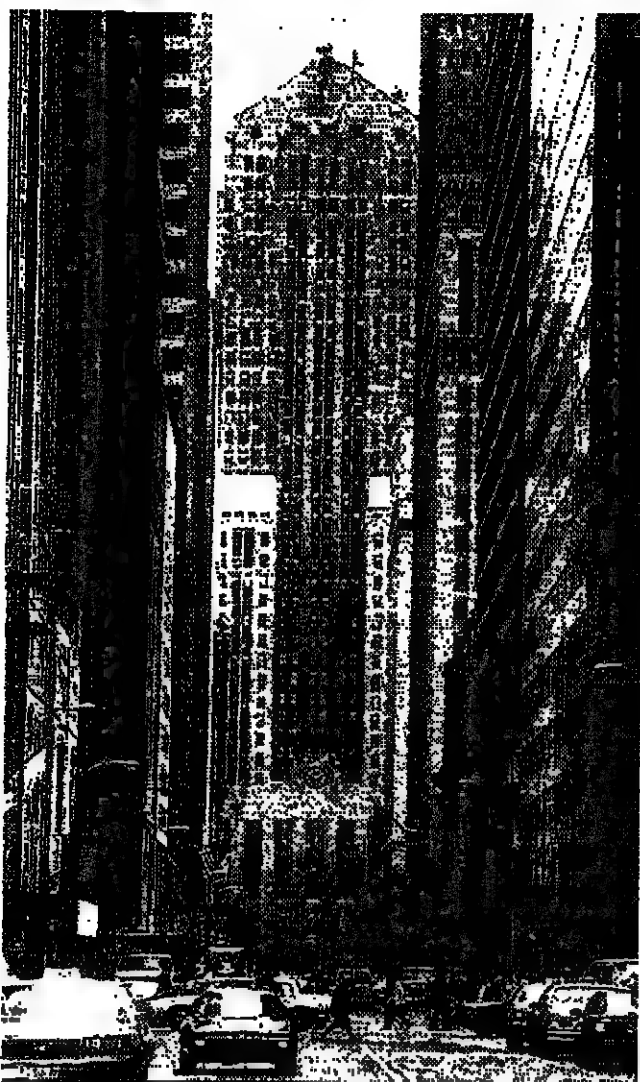
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LEAD FROM STRENGTH.

DERIVATIVES 2



Chicago Board of Trade: interest-rate transactions grew by 17.8 per cent

Laurie Morse on the burgeoning market in interest-rate derivatives

A two-pronged development

INTEREST rates are hitting rock bottom, the US government is serious about trimming its deficit, and portfolio managers, stung by unthinkably low returns, are bailing out of the bond markets for more profitable venues.

Does this mean the burgeoning markets in interest-rate derivatives, one of the more stunning financial phenomena of the eighties, are close to peaking? No, say dealers. Fixed income derivatives, which are proliferating rapidly, are thriving on the uncertainty created by a 300-basis-point drop in US interest rates in a year, the volatility in European currency differentials following the demise of the ERM, and a massive restructuring of corporate debt.

Last year US corporate treasurers moved en masse to switch fixed-rate obligations, which looked very attractive only a few months earlier, to lower-cost floating rate debt. Even the US government, confident of its own ability to keep inflation low, shifted its debt sales to shorter maturities. The phenomenon is now hitting Europe as rates there fall.

To hear some bankers tell it, on a quiet day in London you can almost hear the scurrying

as corporate treasurers, locked into fixed-rate debt at 8 and 9 per cent, rush to swap into adjustable-rate deals, to take advantage of falling interest rates. Reversing once-attractive fixed rate deals is expensive, although they ultimately lower financing costs, and dealers have become creative about embedding option-like features into the contracts to bring down their cost.

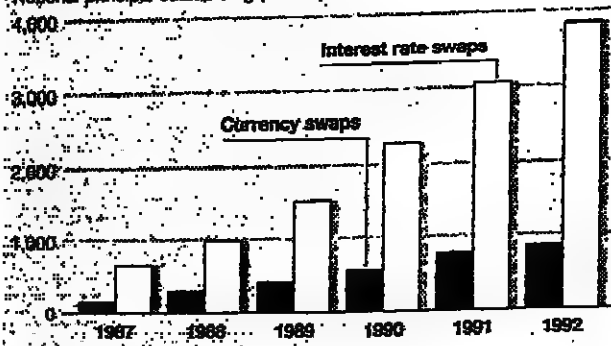
"Interest rate derivatives are developing into a two-pronged market," says Mr Leon Tatevossian, vice-president for derivatives research at Salomon Brothers. "New products are evolving to meet ever more complicated risk management needs, while the use of structured transactions by asset managers to enhance portfolio yields is another big growth area."

Once the province of US government securities dealers who used the Chicago interest-rate futures and options pits to hedge their wholesale bond purchases, the use of derivatives trickled down from banks to corporate treasurers, then to asset managers, and now even to individuals seeking higher yields by investing in derivative-driven mutual funds.

Derivatives dealers who once

Interest rate and currency swaps

Notional principal outstanding (billions)



focused exclusively on designing vehicles for customers who wanted to hedge liabilities are now reaching out to asset managers who are beginning to use manufactured securities as investments. Shrewd futures traders have been speculating in derivatives for years, but for the portfolio manager who does not want to be exposed to daily market moves, a tailored over-the-counter deal is more suitable than an exchange trade.

Creating a healthy "buy side" audience for structured debt will provide balance to the derivatives industry, although some critics say asset

managers, by piling into the instruments in a frantic search for yield, could get burned if there is an unexpected interest rate shock.

And the liability-management side of the derivative utility equation is nowhere near being exhausted, in the US or elsewhere.

In the US, a new accounting regulation known as FAS 115 is likely to pull conservative regional bankers, insurance companies, and other capital-sensitive businesses who have resisted the trend, into the derivatives fold.

The regulation, which becomes effective in January

1994, requires that securities be classified as either "held to maturity", "available for sale", or "held for trading". Securities in either of the two latter categories must be regularly marked to market, a factor that makes them suddenly vulnerable to even small fluctuations in long-term interest rates.

The new requirements are expected to throw many more securities into the "available for sale" accounting bin, and while the marked-to-market process will not show through on income statements, it will affect equity and capital requirements.

"A company that is capital-sensitive will have to keep a closer eye on what is happening in the available-for-sale account. Its just one more risk they'll have to manage," says Marjorie Marker, a senior manager and derivatives specialist for Arthur Andersen.

She believes derivatives will play a large part in helping these companies mitigate this new market risk. However, conservative organisations, mainly small banks, will simply move assets into shorter maturities, an action that will trim the margins they now reap in the spread between borrowing customer funds at 3 per cent interest and lending them to the government at 6 per cent.

Far from stealing business from organised futures and options exchanges, the evolution and diversification of

interest-rate derivatives has fuelled tremendous growth in exchange-traded products. Even the most exotic swaps and structured notes designed for a single customer are eventually distilled into a risk a dealer will hedge in a futures or options pit.

Sometimes, when the custom transactions are for long maturity periods or require frequent rate adjustments, the over-the-counter deal will be hedged and covered and re-hedged repeatedly on an exchange.

This helps explain why the total notional value of interest-rate swaps outstanding at the end of 1992, at \$3,800bn, as reported by the trade group ISDA, was smaller than the same measure of current open positions in US-exchange-traded interest-rate derivatives, and far smaller than the value of exchange-traded government debt worldwide.

The exchanges are best described as wholesale debt-management markets, and their growth rates expand in concert with custom-tailored derivatives.

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange had a 14.2 per cent year-over-year growth rate in interest-rate futures and options at the end of the third quarter, while at the Chicago Board of Trade, interest-rate transactions grew by 17.8 per cent. That compares with ISDA estimates that over-the-counter interest rate swaps, in all currencies, grew at a 19 per cent rate last year.

Richard Waters looks at the sell side: commercial and investment banks

New box of risk-management tricks

IT IS ONE of the great paradoxes of the derivatives industry. Some leading US commercial banks, battered in the 1980s by excessive concentrations of lending to third world countries, the property sector and leveraged buy-outs, have set themselves up in the 1990s as experts in risk management.

Is an industry which proved so lax in controlling its own risks - and which has been bailed out only by the lowest US interest rates in memory - really in a position to advise others on theirs?

The banks say they have emerged stronger and wiser from the experience of the 1980s. "Banks have learned as an industry that concentration is not a good thing," says Mr Peter Hancock, head of derivatives at J.P. Morgan, a bank which came through the excesses of the 1980s better than most.

Bankers Trust remains the most extreme example of the phenomenon which has turned banks from pools of risk themselves into providers of risk management instruments. Stuck with third world debt and bridge loans which it was unable to sell on through the securities markets, the US's seventh biggest banking group

(in terms of assets) slumped to a near-\$1bn loss in 1989. Yet the experience coincided with an early move into derivative markets which left Bankers Trust as the most profitable commercial bank in the US last year, with a return on equity of 23 per cent.

Not surprisingly, derivatives and risk management are now virtually a religion inside Bankers Trust. "It's not a product - it's more a way of life," says Mr Brian Walsh, head of derivatives. The most obvious embodiment of this: the bank's much-emulated method of allocating capital based on an analysis of both credit and market risk through a unified model. Known as "rarc" (for "risk-adjusted return on capital"), this capital-allocation model was adjusted a year ago to take more account of the liquidity risk implicit in different types of asset, Mr Walsh says

(the lower the liquidity, the higher the capital charge applied internally.)

The re-emergence of risk-taking in commercial banks has been most pronounced in the swaps markets. They may have retreated from commercial lending in the 1980s (in part because the strongest companies can raise money at better rates direct from the capital markets), but this has not stopped banks taking on new credit risks. As counterparties to swap transactions, most banks have been adding off-balance sheet credit exposure to replace shrinking on-balance sheet risks. Mr Hancock calls it "the rebirth of bank intermediation". It has provided a route for banks to reinvent themselves as credit institutions - and this time, they claim, the risks are being spread more evenly through the system.

Bankers Trust, which invested earlier

than most in the people and technology needed to run a derivatives business, and J.P. Morgan, with its strong balance sheet and good relationships with many big companies, have been the most profitable "money centre" banks in the US this year. Much of this is due to derivatives, though neither bank reports profits from derivatives separately.

To hear these banks talk, their new box of risk management tricks offers almost limitless possibilities. Most big decisions taken by their corporate customers - such as whether to build a new factory, or buy another company - involve the taking of many different business and market risks. Through the derivatives markets (whether currency, interest rate or commodity) those risks can be split apart and managed separately. Mr Walsh points to one example: the ability to lock into a fixed oil price

for up to 10 years. "That must have a profound effect on the way oil companies are run," he says.

If companies respond to these blandishments, then the most successful intermediaries in the derivatives markets will be those best able to act as the lightning conductors through which risk is transferred from one group to another. The ability to price and hedge exposures - many of which, unlike equities or fixed income securities, have no underlying cash market - will also be an important determinant of future profits.

Risk-management skills learned in the equity, currency or fixed income derivatives markets are already taking commercial banks into new areas. Insurance could prove the next great opportunity. The risk transfer mechanism in the insurance industry is dominated by a limited number

of large institutions, whether insurers or reinsurers. Much like the banking industry, these institutions carry large exposures and are vulnerable to unforeseen events: one big US hurricane, say, could wipe out a whole year's property/casualty insurance profits in one go.

Through the same risk-transfer mechanism pioneered in other derivative markets, both Bankers Trust and J.P. Morgan say they are already linking the exposures in the insurance industry to the wider capital markets. According to Mr Hancock: "Just as derivatives have brought regional capital markets together, it will help to connect that [insurance] market with others. It leaves you with a bigger pool of risk takers to absorb the shocks."

The effect on the giants of the insurance industry could be profound. "It's the last area in financial services to go through significant change," says Mr Walsh, though he hesitates to suggest that the capital markets will eventually prove a better mechanism for transferring insurance risks than the insurance companies.

It is not surprising, therefore, to see some big insurers moving into the derivatives markets themselves.

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DERIVATIVES 4

CURRENCY PRODUCTS

ERM crises quicken activity

SINCE THE late 1980s, the trade in currency derivative products has been one of the fastest growing sectors of the foreign exchange business. But successive crises in the European exchange rate mechanism in the past year have given this sector a stimulus that few dealers could have anticipated.

Until a few years ago, the personnel on a bank's derivatives desk were often regarded as unusual figures - more akin to rocket scientists than currency traders. In its infancy, the currency derivatives market was a supply-led business, with banks spending huge sums on the research and development of products which, they hoped, would allow customers to hedge risks.

The growing participation of institutional investors in currency dealing over the past five years gave currency derivatives an initial boost. Institutions such as pension funds and insurance funds have greatly increased their purchase of overseas assets in recent years.

They have been keen to hedge the exposure of these assets - like bonds and equities - to exchange rate moves. That is why they have pur-

chased derivative products which allow them to lock in to established exchange rates.

But it was the recent crises in the ERM that led to an explosion of interest in this area.

The departure of sterling and the Italian lira from the system in the autumn of 1992 was followed by the momentous decision to widen the bands for most ERM currencies to 15 per cent on August 2 of this year. With currencies fluctuating

over much wider areas, investors have rushed to hedge their exposures.

"There has been a 5 to 10 per cent increase in the use of these products over the past 12 months," said Mr Patrick Allaway, managing director of Global Foreign Exchange at Swiss Bank Corporation in London. "Institutions are facing volatility in European cross-rates for the first time, and that is making derivative products much more attrac-

tive."

One of the principal instruments that investors use is the forward contract, which allows him or her to purchase or sell a currency at an exchange rate that is set at a fixed date in the future.

The other popular alternative is the currency "option". This gives the customer the opportunity to buy or sell a currency if it should "strike" a certain exchange rate. The contract is paid for by means of a

premium which is set by the bank.

The main customers for these instruments tend to be leading institutional investors or multinationals with payments and receivables in different currencies. It is selective clientele - and that may be derivative products are not cheap. There are two reasons for this:

■ The increase in exchange rate volatility in recent years has made it riskier for banks to write options. In August 1992 and July 1993 - the height of the ERM crises - premiums were selling at some three times above their normal levels. The volatility has subsided, but premiums on European currency options are still higher than normal.

■ Second, options can be expensive because they are often tailor-made for a particular customer. Options can be bought on an exchange, but the most attractive variants are over-the-counter options (OTCs) which a bank designs for an institution's particular requirements.

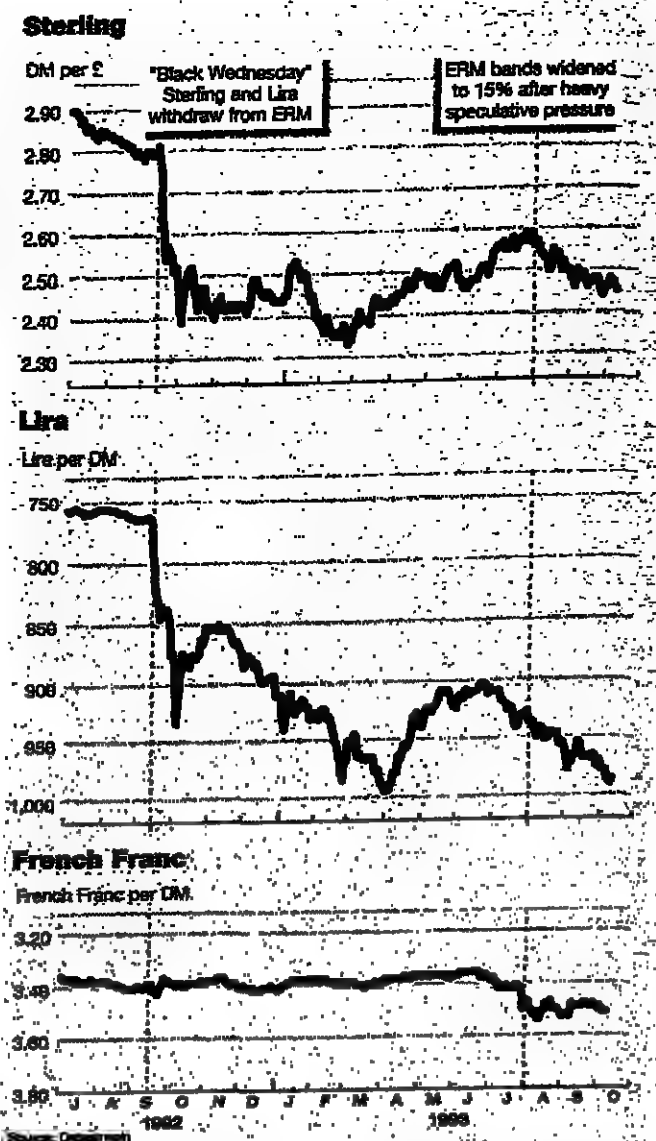
According to Mr Allaway, the most attractive options today are "basket" options, which allow a currency to be hedged against a group of European currencies. That option might be bought by a customer who is unsure what specific trades he will be making in European currencies over a given period of time.

Another popular variant is the "down-and-out" option. This allows a customer to let the option lapse if the exchange rate moves in a direction which is favourable to him. The attraction of these options is their lower premium.

However, if these are tools increasingly used by the principal customers, then they are also being provided by an ever smaller elite of commercial banks.

The research and development investment required to be at the forefront of the derivatives business is so great that only a handful of players can afford it. Mr Allaway says that some 90 per cent of the turnover of the business is controlled by just six banks with a strong presence in London - and their market share is increasing.

Moreover, banks have to be very careful about participating in a business where losses can - theoretically - be astronomical. In the ERM crisis of September 1992, some French



banks were thought to have been extremely badly burned by the exposure of their derivatives teams to exchange rate movements.

So, successful option teams need to have very clear management structures around the business. They also have to provide sufficient capital to hedge the "underlying" moves that follow the writing of any options.

The banks are confident that they can manage this business. But governments and central bankers are increasingly concerned about the possibilities of a credit default in the derivatives sector that would destabilize markets.

Earlier this year the Bank for International Settlements said that it might extend the amount of cash cover that commercial banks had to set against the risks that were being taken in their derivatives operations.

There are also concerns that the growth of the derivatives market could intensify the flows in spot foreign exchange markets in a way that would also be destabilizing.

At the moment, the options business accounts for around 2 per cent of total turnover in foreign exchange. But some currency managers believe that this is enough to impact some 10 per cent of the total flows in the spot market.

Some dealers believe that if options were to account for a 10 per cent share of all turnover, these instruments would be generating around half of all the flows in the market. There is a danger that this would create extreme volatility at certain times, providing another headache for central bankers who are trying to regulate the operations of foreign exchange dealers.

James Blitz

LEGAL ISSUES

Quest for definitive answers

AS DERIVATIVES transactions metamorphosed at a dizzying rate in the 1980s, turning bonds and options into swaps and swaptions, strips and tigers, with collars and floors, they mutated beyond traditional securities regulation, and put themselves into a land of legal limbo.

Financial engineers driving quirky software on powerful Sun workstations have not only left stodgy bond traders in the dust, they have befuddled regulators accustomed to dealing with hybrid financial instruments.

The fact that derivative deals represent thousands of billions of dollars in capital and regularly cross political borders makes the legal wrangles, and their accompanying risk, all the more onerous.

Recognising that banking and trading laws were written long before there were over-the-counter derivatives, banks are working to seal the gaps left where derivative transactions do not fit into old-fashioned legal categories. The problems of defining what derivatives are, who is allowed to trade them, and how to enforce standard agreements designed to reduce transaction risks are all hot issues in banking.

The ubiquitous interest rate swaps, for example, risk being judged illegal under the gambling laws of countries as diverse as France, Brazil, Canada and Japan, and until recently, under the commodity regulations of the United States. In some countries swaps risk has been classified as usurious, and is illegal.

Mr Dan Cunningham, part-

ner at the US law firm Cravath, Swaine and Moore and counsel to the International Swap and Derivatives Association, says tremendous progress has been made in these areas, and that clarifying legislation is being sought in countries where the line of the law is cloudy.

Changes in the legal environment have come in important areas. US commodity regulators this year declared that swaps were exempt from futures regulations, wiping away a huge legal uncertainty in the US. Australia is considering similar legal adjustments.

In France, national financial authorities last September issued a circular that defined who is allowed to use swaps, and under what conditions they can trade. Local governments in France, for example, cannot speculate in derivatives, but can use them to hedge.

However, those changes have occurred under conditions still in flux. Uneasiness about the risks derivatives pose to the world banking system prompted the US Congress to reserve final word on derivatives regulation, and some legislators view the swaps exemption from commodity law as simply an interim act on the way to more structured swaps regulation.

In another category of legal risk, derivatives dealers have

become increasingly more circumspect about who they take as a swaps counterparty, not just from a credit standpoint, but from the view of legal eligibility.

Governments, particularly municipalities, can be attracted to derivatives deals, but their qualification for a swaps marriage is not always clear.

The costs of consorting with an ineligible counterparty were driven home in the UK in 1991, when the House of Lords ruled that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, an active sterling interest rate swaps trader, did not have the power to enter into derivatives contracts.

The decision voided five years worth of contracts, and forced the local authority and the involved financial institutions to take losses. The decision also voided similar deals between more than 180 UK councils and 75 of the world's largest banks, stirring up legal appeals that are still in the courts.

Now, rather than assume a counterparty is eligible under existing statutes, banks and other dealers are demanding a definitive body of law.

In the US, lobbyists have persuaded about 25 states to enact laws defining who can use derivatives. Lawyers say the process has been slower in other countries, particularly in Germany.

Despite the huge amounts of money sloshing through the over-the-counter markets, industry advocates say there have been remarkably few defaults. A recent ISDA survey put cumulative losses at a mere \$358m in the past 10 years, and half of those were attributed to the *Hammersmith* case.

The past cannot necessarily predict the future, however, and credit risk is the predominant concern of every derivatives dealer and bank regulator.

Most swaps dealers use standard contracts to define their transactions, and to reduce credit risks, many engage in bilateral netting agreements.

If the contract is terminated early, because of bankruptcy or liquidation, the netting agreements allow payables and receivables to cancel each other out, limiting the credit risk of the solvent counterparty to net exposures.

Enforcing netting is rife with potholes, however, and only slowly are bankruptcy judges and others recognising them as valid.

Of all the industrialised countries, lawyers say France is the most questionable jurisdiction for enforcing netting.

A 1989 ruling in the US allowed netting between US-based counterparties, and the practice is generally recognised in the UK.

The Basle Committee on

Banking Supervision of the Bank for International Settlements in April released a proposal to recognise bilateral close-out netting as a means of reducing credit risk for the purpose of measuring bank capital adequacy. It is now seeking international comments on the plan.

A controversial offshoot of the netting discussion is the idea of multibranch netting. A financial institution with operations and assets worldwide will choose a location, for tax or other purposes, in which to register a swaps transaction.

If an institution finds itself in collapse, as happened in the case of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, world bank regulators may wrangle over the proper way to deal with the remains, putting the integrity of the netting agreements in jeopardy.

Mr Cunningham says the issues of enforceability of multibranch netting have gained attention since the BCCI case. A derivatives report issued in July by the Washington-based think-tank, the Group of Thirty, suggests a solution. "Resolution will come only if and when it is clear that insolvency of a bank with several branches in different countries will be handled as a single proceeding and not as separate proceedings for the bank and each branch," he says.

This recommendation, and others like it, leans towards standard global financial regulation, an evolution that legal demands of derivatives trading may accelerate.

Laurie Morse

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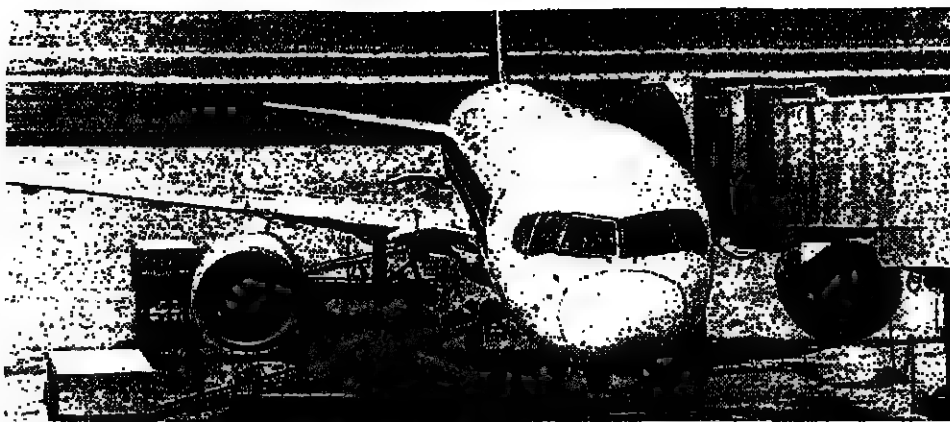
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COMMODITY PRODUCTS

Cutting raw material risks



Fuelling activity: hedging to protect the bottom line

Picture: Glyn Glyn

IN SPITE of low commodity prices in recent years, a range of innovative hedging arrangements offered by banks and brokers has appeared on the market. Some bankers see the slight uptick in commodity prices in recent months as an indication that a recovery has set in which could give a new boost to commodity swaps and over-the-counter derivatives.

"If base metals prices bottom out and we see a turnaround, the growth in that market could be huge as most consumers are currently not hedged," said Mr Per Sekse, vice-president for commodity derivatives at Chemical Bank in London.

Credit Lyonnais, the French investment bank, is so confident of finding new business in the commodity derivatives sector that it set up a new arm in September, Credit Lyonnais Rouse Derivatives, to extend its involvement into structured finance deals.

However, commodity prices have been depressed for several years and, overall, have declined again this year. Goldman Sachs's commodity index, which tracks the prices of a range of commodities from metals to energy and agricultural products, showed a 4.4 per cent decline in the year to the beginning of October.

Goldman is forecasting a modest uptick in prices over the next six months, fuelled by supply-demand imbalances as

low prices have not encouraged investment in new capacity.

In a low price environment, commodity derivatives can allow a company to lock in a price - either for its raw material or for its sales - and at least meet its budget objectives when cashflow is stretched.

By using OTC products, companies can also hedge to position themselves strategically in the market for a number of years ahead.

These derivatives are often also traded on futures exchanges, but banks can cut individual deals in the OTC markets that extend years beyond the timescale offered by the traditional exchanges.

The most sophisticated area of hedging in the OTC market is in the energy sector where the exchanges do not always provide products that cover parts of the refined oil barrel. For instance, although there is a thriving futures market for crude oil in London and New York and gas oil in New York, there is no exchange-traded futures contract for jet fuel.

Mr Sekse describes how a leading oil company recently bought an option on the spread between jet fuel and gas oil. This covers the company's risk of hedging its jet fuel sales to airlines by using gas oil futures. The prices of jet fuel and gas oil are different, so the company runs a certain

amount of risk of those prices diverging: that risk can be limited by buying a tailor-made option on the spread between the prices of the two fuels.

Mr Chris Mason, managing director at Credit Lyonnais Rouse Derivatives, says airlines have increasingly been using swaps in jet fuel as a way of reducing their fuel costs. Some 18 to 20 per cent of an airline's running costs are accounted for by the fuel bill and using fixed and floating

rate price swaps, CLRD can reduce that bill by 1 per cent. Energy companies and airlines are more sophisticated users of these types of hedging deals - more so than similar companies in other sectors.

Many banks and brokers are trying to move into a position where they can offer these products to carmakers, for example, food companies and aluminium smelters.

"You are battling with an inherently bullish attitude

among management," Mr Sekse says. "They say the reason they are in the commodity business is so that their share prices carry commodity price risk and they always believe the price is going to go up again."

His challenge is to convince some conservative company managers that "not hedging is as risky as hedging".

Mr Mason adds that for some mine operators, hedging could be the deciding factor on whether or not they get bank

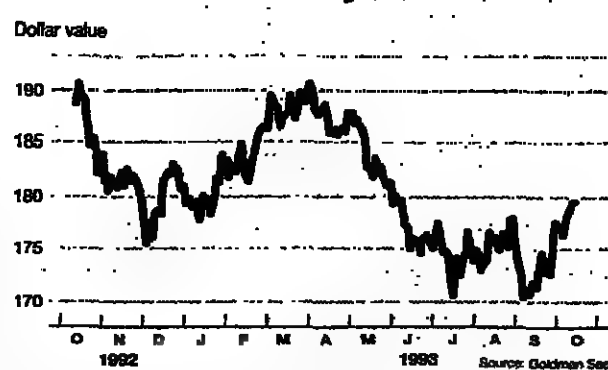
financing for their start-up costs. CLRD offers a rolling hedge for, say a copper mine, to lock in the price of its output for five years making the project more viable.

CLRD will also finance the cost of holding metal stocks for an aluminium company. The company can sell its entire stock to the broker and then buy it back when it needs it - buying at a spot price which is cheaper than the forward price. It helps the company to get the cost of carrying stock off its balance sheet and the broker locks in a profit by selling the metal forward which it shares with the metal producer.

Hedging is less familiar in the agricultural and soft commodities sector, not least because the prices of many products are government-controlled. Some consumers are using the OTC markets to hedge purchases of frozen orange juice, but Mr Mason believes the food sector could offer enormous potential for these hedging arrangements because it is largely untapped.

There is no regular deal flow for banks and brokers from

Goldman Sachs commodity index



Source: Goldman Sachs

this sector of the market, but much marketing effort is being directed at this type of business.

"It can take a lot of patience to convince producers of the need to hedge soft commodities - often as long as six to nine months before they start looking at a deal," said Mr Sekse. The timing is also crucial since the market could, in the meantime, have moved in the wrong direction and the producer could be put off again.

In the agricultural sector, a number of banks and brokers are working on a hedge for the green pound - the theoretical currency linked to the Ecu in which EC farmers are paid subsidies. This is almost impossible to achieve, but is in demand from food manufactur-

ers. The food companies are less interested in hedging since they tend to have higher margins than companies in the energy sector and can more easily absorb changes in prices of raw materials. But a number are beginning to look at the possibility of locking in some prices.

The commodities sector offers wide potential for innovative deal-making and growth in future is expected to come - at least initially - from the energy business. Other sectors present a hard sell to the banks involved in the business and a challenge to convince conservative companies to dip a toe in the complex waters of derivatives.

Deborah Hargreaves

EQUITY PRODUCTS

Hedge against stock swings

IF YOU peek into the portfolio of an equity fund manager nowadays, the chances are that you might not find any shares. Instead, there could be a whole load of bonds in the portfolio.

Before you sue the fund manager for misrepresentation, there is a good reason for what appears to be a contradictory state of affairs.

The fund manager will be using the income from the bonds to buy equity derivative products which should enable his fund to achieve higher returns than other similar funds in the market place.

Equity derivatives have become an integral part of a fund manager's life as the fund management industry becomes increasingly competitive.

"Fund managers are doing everything possible to get the best performance," says the head of equity derivatives at a leading Japanese bank in London.

In addition, the use of equity derivatives is now spreading to all areas of finance as a higher

priority is given to managing risk as effectively as possible.

Users of equity derivatives can be divided into three main categories: insurance companies and investment fund companies which want to launch new products to sell to their retail clients; pension funds which want to have an exposure to a certain equity market without having to go out and buy shares in that market; corporate treasurers who want tools to manage or hedge different exposures on their balance sheets.

Most equity derivative products, which are traded over the counter (OTC) or on futures and options exchanges, can be tailored to each client's specific needs.

"Essentially, we use equity derivative products to solve any problems which our client might have," says one derivatives trader.

Some traders say that the drawback of these individual structured deals is that they are not liquid and are difficult

to get out of once you are in. However, others say that these deals are essentially made up of a series of building blocks which can be unwound at any time.

As a result of the customised nature of the market, most of the innovations in equity derivatives products are born in the over-the-counter market which can cater for individual needs. However, the exchanges are quick to catch on to any new products.

Although products traded on the exchanges tend to be more standardised than those in the OTC market, they are attractive to investors who are not allowed to buy products which are not listed.

One important advantage of buying a listed product is that

the exchange acts as a central clearing house which helps to reduce a market participant's credit exposure.

By contrast, participants in the OTC market may well trade directly with a counterparty which has an inferior credit rating.

However, an increasing number of entities with triple-A ratings are starting to provide derivative products in the OTC markets which should help to reduce this credit risk concern.

There has been an enormous growth in volume in equity derivatives products and investors can now have an exposure to all the leading stock markets in the world without having to actually buy shares in those markets.

The next target will be

emerging stock markets in Latin America and Asia as soon as they are deemed to have sufficient liquidity to support a derivatives market. Mexico, Hong Kong and Singapore are likely to be the first to take this step.

The types of products on offer are also becoming increasingly exotic and investors can now hedge themselves against virtually every movement in a stock market.

"There are few limits left to what we can offer investors as long as they pay to take the risk and the reward," says a derivatives trader at a UK securities house.

Retail investors are also creeping into what is still a largely institutional domain since equity derivatives are

being used to structure OTC products which guarantee a specific return.

These "guaranteed return" products are heavily marketed to retail investors who have seen their income from cash deposits dwindle over the past year as a result of the substantial drop in interest rates.

These kinds of products, which rely heavily on derivatives for their ability to outperform the underlying equity market, are widespread in the United States but are relatively new in Europe.

In the UK, the wider use of derivatives has been held up by legislative and fiscal difficulties. However, now that these issues have been clarified there has been a tremendous increase in OTC products

which are sold to retail investors.

Liffe, London's financial futures and options exchange, is relying on retail investors as part of its ambitious plan to stimulate new interest in equity options.

In the US and in the Netherlands, it is the retail investor, and not the institutional client, who is responsible for about 70 per cent of trading volume in these instruments.

In the UK, the situation is the reverse, with private investors estimated to contribute less than 20 per cent of total equity and index option volume.

Liffe has therefore taken steps to make equity options more accessible to the public. Prices of individual equity options are now available on the BBC's teletext facility, Ceefax.

Retail investors were also given priority when Liffe conducted a review of individual equity options. The exchange dropped four existing options

and introduced eight new ones, leaving 70 equity options which better reflect the composition of retail and institutional portfolio holdings.

Liffe does not expect investors, large and small, to change their habits overnight, but aims to double trading volume of equity options within two years. Currently, just over 1m contracts are traded each quarter.

Trading in equity options reached a high of 3.1m contracts in the second quarter of 1987, just before the global stock market crash which occurred that October.

While a volume-based target is probably the most widely perceived measure of success, Liffe believes that other goals are equally important.

These range from a substantial increase in the use of equity options by institutional and private clients, to increased liquidity in individual equity options.

Antonia Sharpe



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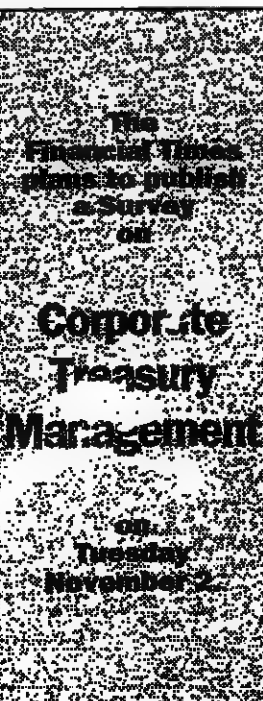
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DERIVATIVES 6

Tracy Corrigan examines the growth of futures exchanges

Quirky offshoots gain respect

TWENTY years ago, futures exchanges were viewed as quirky offshoots of larger markets. Although still treated with suspicion in some quarters, futures exchanges have now positioned themselves at the heart of the world's financial markets.

According to a recent report by the Group of Thirty, the Washington-based think-tank, the notional amount of futures traded annually is now estimated at \$140,000bn.

The growth of futures markets has been fuelled by the increased sophistication and internationalisation of financial markets, including the proliferation of complex over-the-counter products which are then hedged using exchange-traded products. In fact, the rapid development of financial markets in the past 20 years could arguably not have been realised without the growth of futures and options exchanges.

As barriers between markets have fallen, and international investors have turned their attention to new markets, the establishment of futures contracts has been an important factor in ensuring liquidity and hedging opportunities. The new techniques developed in the derivatives markets have had an impact on investment management, trading, technology, and risk management. In spite of this success record, the exchanges themselves appear less than confident.

In the US, the futures business is showing all the signs of a mature market - margins are shrinking, competition is intense, and market share is being lost to younger European exchanges. But in Europe, too, in spite of annual volume growth of 40 per cent for many exchanges, exchanges are aware of new pressures. Mr Jörg Franke, chairman of the Deutsche Terminbörse in Frankfurt, believes that with more than 20 futures and commodities exchanges, Europe has more exchanges than it needs.

Although new products are still being launched, the flow is easing, as the pool of potential new products dries up. Without new contracts such as Italian bond futures, it will be more difficult for European

exchanges to build volume. For all exchanges, the development in the past few years of an increasingly active over-the-counter market in products such as swaps and options, which can be used for some purposes instead of exchange-traded products, is a cause for concern.

Mr Lynton Jones, chief executive of OM London, believes the OTC market will continue to grow "but some of their new products will be adapted for exchanges". The most successful such attempt so far is the Chicago Board Options Exchange's FLEX options, which have exceeded \$10bn in underlying notional value in the first seven months of trading. FLEX Options allow investors to use customised derivatives based on stock indices to select various terms such as strike price and maturity.

Exchanges have also been trying to prepare themselves for a potentially more difficult environment by creating cross-trading agreements, linkages and even partnerships. One example is a grouping of smaller European exchanges, known as First European Exchanges (Fex). The only linkage currently in place is between OM London, the Swedish-owned electronic exchange, and the European Options Exchange in Amsterdam. Under that agreement, EOE members have OM screens on their desks in Amsterdam. However, OM members are linked to the EOE only by telephone. Not surprisingly, the flow of business from EOE members to OM has been the more significant.

Fex's other plans have already faltered. In July, Switzerland's Soffex was forced to pull back from its linkage plans under pressure from Swiss banks which want to get their own electronic stock trading system in place first.

Still in the early stages is a linkage of France's Matif and Germany's Deutsche Terminbörse, using DTE screens. As these exchanges command some of the most actively traded contracts in Europe, this alliance could become a powerful force.

The development of these linkages has fuelled discussion

Volume on international futures and options exchanges

	Number of contracts traded Jan-Dec 1991	Jan-Dec 1992
Chicago Board of Trade	199,437,140	150,030,480
Chicago Mercantile Exchange	108,128,804	134,238,353
Life, UK	36,583,877	71,577,025
Matif, France	36,578,998	55,474,238
New York Mercantile Exchange	40,786,714	47,212,417
BMAF, Brazil	18,765,594	35,072,166
DTE, Germany	15,588,730	34,842,778
London Metal Exchange	16,937,903	24,736,920
Osaka Securities Exchange	53,478,949	21,184,310
Sydney Futures Exchange	12,498,018	17,557,685
Stockholm Options Exchange	13,442,850	17,147,096
Tokyo Int'l Financial Futures Exchange	15,148,104	15,940,487
Tokyo Stock Exchange	16,801,899	14,538,717
Tokyo Commodity Exchange	14,940,189	13,595,579
Commodity Exchange, Inc	15,121,805	12,673,179
Tokyo Grain Exchange	9,899,883	12,416,671
Simex, Singapore	6,088,044	12,180,174
Int'l Petroleum Exchange, UK	8,412,889	10,874,803
Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange	9,494,754	9,275,106
SoFFex, Switzerland	6,971,740	9,258,659
Osaka Grain Exchange	4,123,743	5,441,392
European Options Exch, Amsterdam	3,469,845	3,856,247

Source: Futures Industry Association provided by exchange; excludes individual equity options

of technological developments. Such linkages only really function efficiently for products traded on a screen. Most large exchanges still trade using the traditional open-outcry method, which involves grouping traders in a large pit. Proponents of open-outcry trading claim that screen systems cannot cope with heavy volume.

The success of the DTE has shown that screen trading does not necessarily mean illiquid trading. Nevertheless, most traders familiar with both methods prefer trading using the open-outcry method. Some, though, say that it is only a matter of time before the technology of screen-trading is sufficiently advanced to be able to simulate pit-trading.

Despite its shaky start, the most important development in exchange trading so far this decade was the launch last year of Globex, the international after-hours screen trading system jointly developed by Reuters and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade. Volume on the system jumped when France's Matif, the only exchange to join the system so far, added its products earlier this year, but much of the volume was a direct shift of business from the Matif's over-the-

counter after-hours market, which closed at the same time as Matif products moved on to Globex. Globex has also been dogged by squabbles between the two exchanges, and failure to reach agreement with other potential members of the system, particularly Life.

Nevertheless, the description of the system at its launch by Mr Leo Melamed, then head of Globex, as "the dawn of a new era", could still prove true. The Chicago exchanges point out that the system cannot be judged to have failed until it has screens all over the world, as envisaged in their original vision of a global trading village. "How do you sell hot dogs in Japan when you don't even have a hot dog stand there?" asks Mr Jack Sandner, head of the CME. Globex has only recently received regulatory approval to install screens in Asia, which is potentially the key time-zone for the after-hours market, and is starting a marketing thrust in the region.

Nevertheless, the success of the system will also depend on attracting other exchanges to list their products. The recent reopening of talks between Life and Globex is clearly a hopeful sign, but the battle for a critical mass of volume on the system has yet to be won.

CLEARING

Swaps trade dodges issue

Now that the debate for a multilateral swaps clearing house has died down, even the most self-interested proponents recognise that the swaps trade, a highly customised retail market, will not fit into a wholesale clearing mould. Laurie Morse examines the options.



John Davidson: the need for a clearing house has diminished

THE IDEA of a futures-style clearing house for over-the-counter derivatives gained prominence early this year, in part because the US government had just exempted swaps from US commodity regulations, increasing the uneasiness politicians and bank regulators have about the \$7,000bn market.

Advocates argued that a multilateral swaps clearing house would broaden access to the burgeoning market, reduce credit risks, and produce reams of data for regulatory scrutiny. The world's biggest futures exchanges, at least one law firm, and several dealers rushed to research prototypes.

However, the handful of AAA-rated banks and dealers who conduct 80 per cent of the world's swaps trade carefully sidestepped the clearing house debate, knowing that without their participation, a swaps clearing house would not succeed.

They value the competitive edge their credit ratings deliver, and are satisfied with their own credit controls.

Now that the excitement has died down, even the most self-interested proponents recognise that the swaps trade, a highly customised retail market, will not fit into a wholesale clearing mould. Consensus is building that what is needed instead is a series of third-party agents providing services usually performed by a clearing house.

Dealers would continue bilateral netting, using standard master agreements like those provided by ISDA, the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, but trade matching confirmations, collateral handling, and depository duties would be outsourced to others.

"There are credible substitutes provided by reputable institutions for almost every individual function of a swaps clearing house," Mr John Davidson, senior vice-president of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange's clearing operations, told a banking group recently. "As their functionality improves, the incremental need for a clearing house diminishes."

The swaps industry perhaps has learned from the long, controversial, and expensive attempts to develop clearing houses for over-the-counter foreign exchange transactions. Several ventures, such as New York-based FxNet, has bilateral

ally netted spot trades for years. However, multilateral clearing remains elusive, and most efforts have avoided derivatives altogether.

Two competing groups, one on each side of the Atlantic, plan to offer multilateral foreign exchange contract netting and global settlement services next year, and intend to include forward contracts as well as spot deals.

Multinet, backed primarily by First Chicago and Chase Manhattan, will use the services of the Options Clearing Corp.

Multinet lost the backing of several top-rated banks when they realised the venture, by enhancing credit quality, could strengthen their weaker rivals. "We knew from the start this was a project subject to fractious relationships," says Mr Garrett Glass, a senior vice-president at First National Bank of Chicago, and the chief architect of the six-year-long project.

Echo, or the Exchange Clearing house, has much the same object as Multinet. Based in London it has a dozen bank shareholders, and is being directed primarily by Barclays. Its prolonged development has been due to difficulties in guiding its charter through jealous waters, and to the fact that starting any kind of clearing operation from scratch is extremely expensive.

In the swaps market, the credit worries extend far beyond initial settlement risk, with credit exposure extend-

ing over the term of the contract. Banks, even more than regulators, are concerned about this exposure.

In addition to imposing strict credit quality standards and credit limits on customers and counterparties, the swaps industry has begun to collect collateral on all but the most standard transactions, and to mark positions to market to assess risk more accurately.

Both practices are the basis of the high credit quality awarded to exchange-affiliated clearing houses.

Although the CME has considered developing a swaps clearing house, Mr Davidson says that fundamentally, the existing system of counterparty credit limits works. "Banks and other financial intermediaries are good at applying them, supervisors are good at reviewing them, and senior management understands them. Rapidly untying the swaps market from its current, largely self-imposed limitations, may not have entirely desirable systemic risk implications," he says.

If the primary swaps dealers do begin to move toward an organised clearing house, they will be driven by regulatory capital requirements. It is widely assumed that a fully collateralised swaps clearing house would be exempted from requirements to beef up capital to back up trades.

However, if this spring's Basel Committee proposal to recognise bilateral close-out netting is approved, capital

reserve requirements for swap-dealing banks could be trimmed by more than half, according to Mr Otho Heidegger, a vice-president at Chase Manhattan Bank. That, in turn, would widen the use of standard netting agreements, and hasten the evolution of agents to service settlement and collateral processing needs.

One such service is Bankers Trust's C-Trac+, which offers third-party processing for all types of collateralised OTC transactions.

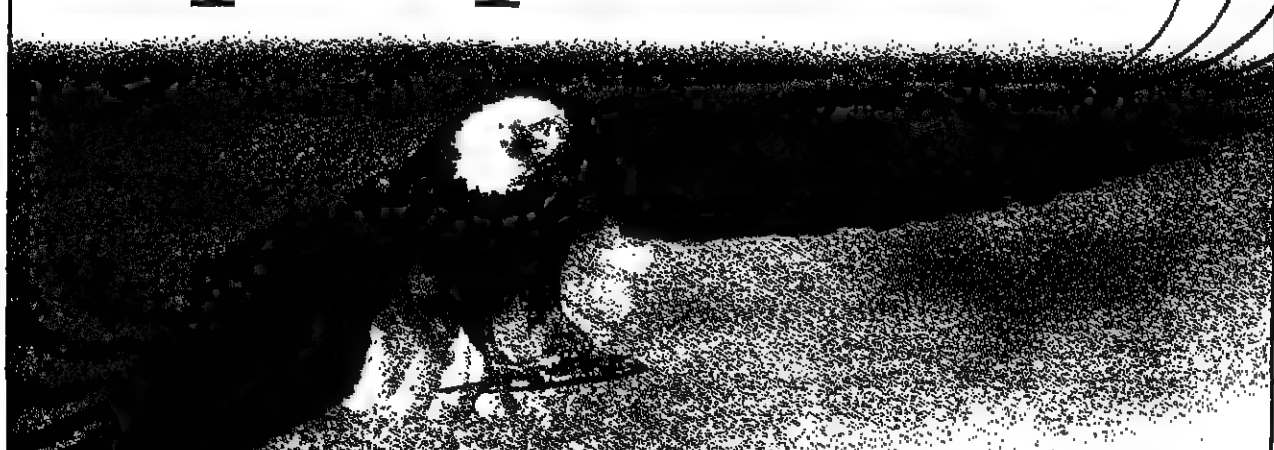
Capitalising on the bank's own derivatives processing capabilities, the product tracks exposures, makes margin calls, and handles the pricing and custody of the assets pledged as collateral.

Ms Eileen Bedell, managing director for Bankers, says the product is aimed at derivative dealers that may not have fully developed back office procedures, and find using the system less expensive than developing in-house capabilities. She thinks that as the derivatives business becomes more competitive, consolidating back-office functions will become more popular.

"People will begin to realise that a swaps trading model is proprietary, but margin tracking is not," she says.

However, since most leading dealers have already invested in their own processing functions, she says the new services can only compete by reducing costs and increasing profitability.

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DERIVATIVES 7

FUTURES FUNDS

Europe waits for floodgates to open

A STRONG performance by futures funds so far this year could help get the nascent European market off the ground. According to industry estimates, around \$20bn is under management in futures funds in the US, but the size of the market is much smaller in Europe - probably between \$2-3bn. The European market also remains fragmented.

Most funds are registered in offshore financial centres, and pitched at high net-worth individuals or small institutions in specific regions. Variations and inconsistencies in the regulatory framework make it more difficult for fund managers to register funds offshore, although most European futures fund managers are based in London.

In the US, the strong regulatory environment and strict performance reporting standards have helped futures funds to gain a respectability which they have yet to acquire in Europe. For example, a number of US state pension funds now publicly invest a portion of their portfolios in futures funds.

Ms Nicola Meaden, managing director of TASS Management, which tracks futures funds, says that there has been an increase in the number of funds launched in Europe this year, but mainstream institutional interest has been slow to

develop. "We are not seeing the floodgates open. In the short term, institutions are finding it easier to tackle the hedge fund managers," Ms Meaden said. However, this year's strong performance may provide the European futures fund business with some fresh impetus.

In the first eight months of this year, the average total return achieved by futures fund managers was 17.45 per cent, according to the TASS index of CTAs (commodity trading advisers - the industry term for the manager who decides the investment strategy of a particular fund). The reason for this strong performance is that "we have had trending markets", according to Mr Peter Swete, chairman of Sabre Fund Management, a futures fund specialist which is now partly owned by Henderson.

Unlike most other investments, the performance of futures funds depends less on whether markets are up or down, and more on the patterns of those movements. Although the strategies of



Floor show: trading on London International Financial Futures Exchange

Picture: Anthony Anderson

futures fund managers vary considerably, what they have in common, apart from their use of derivatives, is that they are based on data analysis and computer power.

Mr Swete, whose funds have risen 30 per cent over the past 12 months, says that their strong performance has attracted new money, doubling the size of funds under management for the same period. "I think it has been a better

year generally in Europe, mainly because there has been better performance after two or three grim years," said Mr Mark Fox-Andrews at Mees-Parsons Derivatives.

The increase in investor interest comes mainly from continental Europe, not the UK, according to many industry specialists. One reason is that "continental European banks are moving into the futures fund business," Mr Fox

Andrews says.

A number of French banks, such as Indosuez, have been active in the market for some time, but are now being joined by more Swiss, German and Dutch banks. US banks are

also becoming more active, though they tend to take a slightly different approach. A number of them had lost traders from their proprietary trading desks, who had decided to apply their skills by setting up

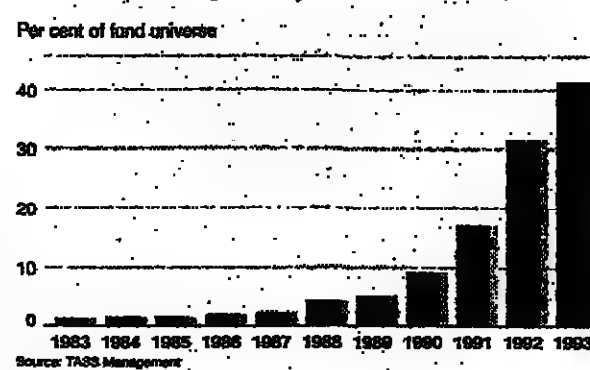
their own funds. Seeing an opportunity, several banks decided to take advantage of this home-grown talent by setting up futures fund departments staffed by former proprietary traders.

"Every major bank is now looking at this area," according to one futures fund manager, but many still have had memories of being scalped by futures brokers in the 1970s. This has also haunted the retail side of the industry in the UK, which has not taken off in spite of the authorisation of futures funds in the form of unit trusts.

Only a handful of futures and options funds (FOFs) and guaranteed futures and options funds (GFOFs) have been launched, partly because futures fund managers are not able to pay themselves the high fees to which they are accustomed.

"If you really want the top people you must pay them the top fees," said one fund manager. Standard performance fees on offshore futures funds are 15-20 per cent. However, management fees have fallen in recent years from around 4

Growth of European sponsored futures funds



Source: TASS Management

per cent to 1-2 per cent.

There are plans to relax the rules on fees for UK-listed futures funds, but so far retail investors have not appeared hugely enthusiastic. However, one regulatory development which should help the UK futures fund business - or at least prevent practitioners from moving offshore - is the proposal by the Securities and Futures Authority to recognise fund managers in the sector as a separate category, defined as DFMs (derivative fund managers). Because they do not hold any funds directly, they are to be allowed lower capital requirements.

However, this is set to change when the EC Investment Services Directive comes into force in 1994. At present, it

is hard to predict the shape that the futures fund industry will take over the next few years.

It is still highly entrepreneurial, one of very few areas of financial services where it is possible to start from scratch, establish a track record, and grow very rapidly.

Recent interest from banks suggests that the industry may become more institutional in character. In addition, the growing use of derivatives and of highly analytical computer trading techniques has blurred the lines between different types of investment. In particular, it is increasingly hard to draw a line between futures funds and hedge funds.

Tracy Corrigan

TECHNOLOGY

Integration top of the agenda

IF ANYONE needed reminding that players in the derivatives markets need to do more work on integrating their front and back office technologies, this summer's Group of Thirty report should have done the trick.

The G30 study looked into derivatives technology and systems, and singled out integration as the most important issue facing the commercial and investment banks which run big derivatives books and the large corporations that use the products to manage the risks of their day-to-day businesses.

As the group's systems, operations and controls subcommittee said: "Systems that integrate the various tasks to be performed for derivatives are complex. Because of the rapid development of the business, even the most sophisticated dealers and users often rely on a variety of systems which may be difficult to integrate in a satisfactory manner. While this situation is inevitable in many organisations, it is

not ideal and requires careful monitoring..."

Integration matters most to derivatives dealers because without integrated systems, they may not be able to properly measure, monitor and control the various risks they carry on their books. The G30 is right to be concerned, because by no means do all dealing firms in the business boast fully integrated derivatives technology.

"Most banks have a patchwork quilt of systems," says Mr Rod Beckstrom, founder of California-based technology group C*ATS Software, who says that only a handful of the biggest and most experienced derivatives players meet the sort of standards outlined in the G30 report.

Mr Patrick Brazel, senior vice-president at UK-based derivatives technology vendor SunGuard Capital Markets (previously Devon Systems), agrees: "I don't think the banks in general have cracked the problem of front to back office integration."

That the dealing community continues to struggle with integration is primarily due to the frantic pace of product development in most front offices. As one software supplier explains: "New products are introduced to the market when there's a need for a specific structured product, yet the systems to support those products are developed entirely on an ad-hoc basis."

Consequently, back offices find themselves constantly playing a game of technological catch-up with the front offices which keep coming up with a supply of new products (or old products with new twists) tailor-made to satisfy their clients' needs. Building integrated systems, however, is not a simple task. Derivatives technology, like

derivatives themselves, has evolved in a random fashion. Dealers have relied upon a variety of software and hardware, not all of it compatible, to create, price and track deriv-

Without integrated systems, derivatives dealers may not be able to properly measure, monitor and control the risks they carry on their books

atives instruments. Some of are developed in-house, and some are bought from software vendors which specialise in selling derivatives management systems. Many employ a combination of the two.

When it comes to buying in the technology from outside (an option that more and more dealers are taking as the number of derivative systems sup-

pliers rapidly grows), many firms purchase what are known as "turnkey" systems, which offer a complete off-the-shelf software package that aims to provide a dealer with

derivatives, pull them in electronically and provide the tools to do risk management analysis and reporting."

Other products, known as "toolkits", are more adaptable to technology which provide the buyer with the flexibility to take their systems wherever they wish in an open environment. They may not be ready to use as fast as the turnkey systems, but they give the buyer more room to tailor the technology to their own needs.

Mr Roger Lang, of US systems supplier Infinity International Financial Technology, says that banks and other derivatives dealers need "leverageable tools and building blocks" to construct their own functions and support their own models. When it comes to integration, "we have to be

able to allow banks to determine their own fate," he says.

A similar theme is sounded by Canadian consulting and software firm Glasco Park, which sells software that can work inside other applications - in this case, Microsoft Windows. Mr Robert Park, of Glasco Park, says that in the past many derivatives dealers' systems "were built around a database file format appropriate only for accounting, which over the years has been modified and remoulded to try to accommodate new financial structures".

In contrast, Glasco Park's approach is to build maths libraries to explain the parts found in derivatives securities, and allow companies to construct their systems around those libraries. The firm claims that is an affordable and quick way to build integrated risk management systems, saving the time and money involved in developing them from scratch.

While the buy-side has been investing heavily in deriva-

tives technology, a small but growing band of the corporations and investment institutions on the sell-side have also been upgrading their systems.

This summer, Atlantic Portfolio Analytics and Management, a \$3.7bn fixed-income fund manager, bought a Cray supercomputer system to compute complex arbitrage, swap options and hedges in a variety of cash and derivatives markets. Although several securities firms, such as Prudential Securities and Merrill Lynch, use supercomputers, AFAM became the first buy-side company to turn to supercomputing.

Also this summer, BP Finance, the banking and treasury subsidiary of the UK oil group, began installing a real-time, deal-capture, position-keeping risk management system from Wall Street Systems for its 200 foreign exchange and derivatives traders in the US, UK and Australia.

Patrick Harverson

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DERIVATIVES 8

REGULATION

Temperature has cooled markedly

EIGHTEEN months ago, the approach of regulators and legislators to the over-the-counter derivatives market was, if not hostile, certainly combative.

The blunt warning about derivatives sounded in January 1992 by the then president of the Federal Reserve, Mr Gerald Corrigan, still rang loudly in bankers' ears, and a small army of regulators from the US and overseas (including the New York Federal Reserve and the Bank of England) were studying the lightly regulated OTC business.

At the same time, lawmakers in the US were getting in on the act. Badly burned by the multibillion dollar collapse of the US savings and loan industry and by the meltdown in the junk bond market in the late 1980s, and by the near-collapse of some of the country's biggest banks at the start of the 1990s, Congress did not want to be caught asleep on its financial watch again.

Eager to be fully informed of the growth of the over-the-counter derivatives business and its potential impact upon public policy, various key finance and banking committees originated their own inquiries, and several leading members of Congress hinted at the possibility of legislation to control, if not curb, the growth of derivatives.

At that time, the creators and users of derivatives were being put on the defensive. Essentially, regulators and US legislators were asking them to prove that the myriad of risks that banks and corporations take on when using derivatives did not threaten the health of an increasingly inter-connected global financial system.

Over the past 18 months, the banks and securities houses which create and sell derivatives, with the help of the corporations and institutions which use them, have helped answer some of the many questions surrounding the business. The result: the temperature of the regulatory climate surrounding the derivatives business, so hot 18 months ago, has cooled.

Mr Joe Bauman, head of business development for global derivatives at Citibank in New York, and spokesman

for the industry in his capacity as chairman of the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (Isda), says regulators and legislators are definitely taking a more "constructive and understanding" approach to the business today. "They have shown a willingness to take a harder look, to get behind the generalities."

Mr Bauman and other bankers point out that regulators were taking such an interest in derivatives primarily because they did not understand the complexities and intricacies of business. Having failed to track the early development of derivatives, regulators were behind from the start, and struggled to keep up with the hectic pace of innovation.

This is a point that the regulators have openly conceded. Last year the then US Treasury secretary Mr Nicholas Brady referred to the "wide knowledge gap between regulators and regulated", echoing earlier comments from a senior Bank of England figure who said the gap was "too great for normal communication".

Since then, the knowledge gap has narrowed. Not only have the regulators started, and in many cases completed, their investigations of derivatives, but banks have gone out of their way to educate regulators about the business. When it comes to the question of whether new risks to banks and the financial system are posed by the growth of derivatives, Isda's message has always been that "the risks are there already, and what needs to be understood is the ways those risks are managed," says Mr Bauman. With the help of a series of derivatives seminars hosted by banks for government officials, that message is now getting across.

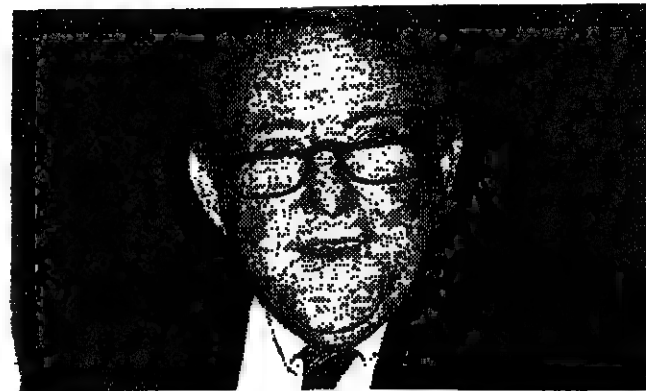
In their mission to educate regulators, bankers have been helped by some of the recent studies on derivatives published around the world. None has been more helpful than this July's report from the Group of Thirty (G30). Although many of its authors were prominent members of the international banking community, and therefore deemed unlikely to criticise a business



Joe Bauman: a more constructive and understanding approach



Alexandre Lamfalussy: banks' balance sheets less transparent



Gerald Corrigan: set the ball rolling in January 1992. Photograph by Peter von der Meer

that was generating billions of dollars of profits for the industry, the G30's pronouncements were still eagerly awaited.

In the event, the study generally concurred with earlier reports by the Bank of England and the BIS and gave the derivatives business a clean bill of health, recommending only a series of management and operational reforms banks should undertake to reduce risks. Bankers said they hoped the study and its recommendations would become a blueprint for regulators.

The G30, however, steered clear of tackling the one issue that worries regulators most - the possibility that something may go wrong in the over-the-counter derivatives market that prompts a worldwide banking and financial crisis.

That this threat still troubles regulators was evident in June when Mr Alexandre Lamfalussy, general manager of the BIS, called for the drawing up of common international standards on banks' disclosures of the risks on their derivatives

books. And it was also evident last month, when the International Monetary Fund published its own study about derivatives and warned that growth in derivatives trading may have created unknown risks for banks.

Both Mr Lamfalussy and the IMF made the same point. The BIS chief said that banks' participation in the derivatives markets had "reduced the transparency of their balance sheets", making it harder for regulators to predict "disturbances" that might pose "systemic problems" in global finance. The IMF said: "Participation in derivatives markets can cause firms to become connected through complicated transactions in ways that are not easily understood." This, the report concluded, made it "extremely difficult" for regulators to assess the risk of default in the system.

Regulatory scrutiny of the derivatives business is by no means over. Three Washington-based bodies, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the

Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the General Accounting Office, are all conducting studies into derivatives. And in September, the Comptroller of the Currency, a key US bank regulator, announced it was establishing a task force to monitor the market's evolution.

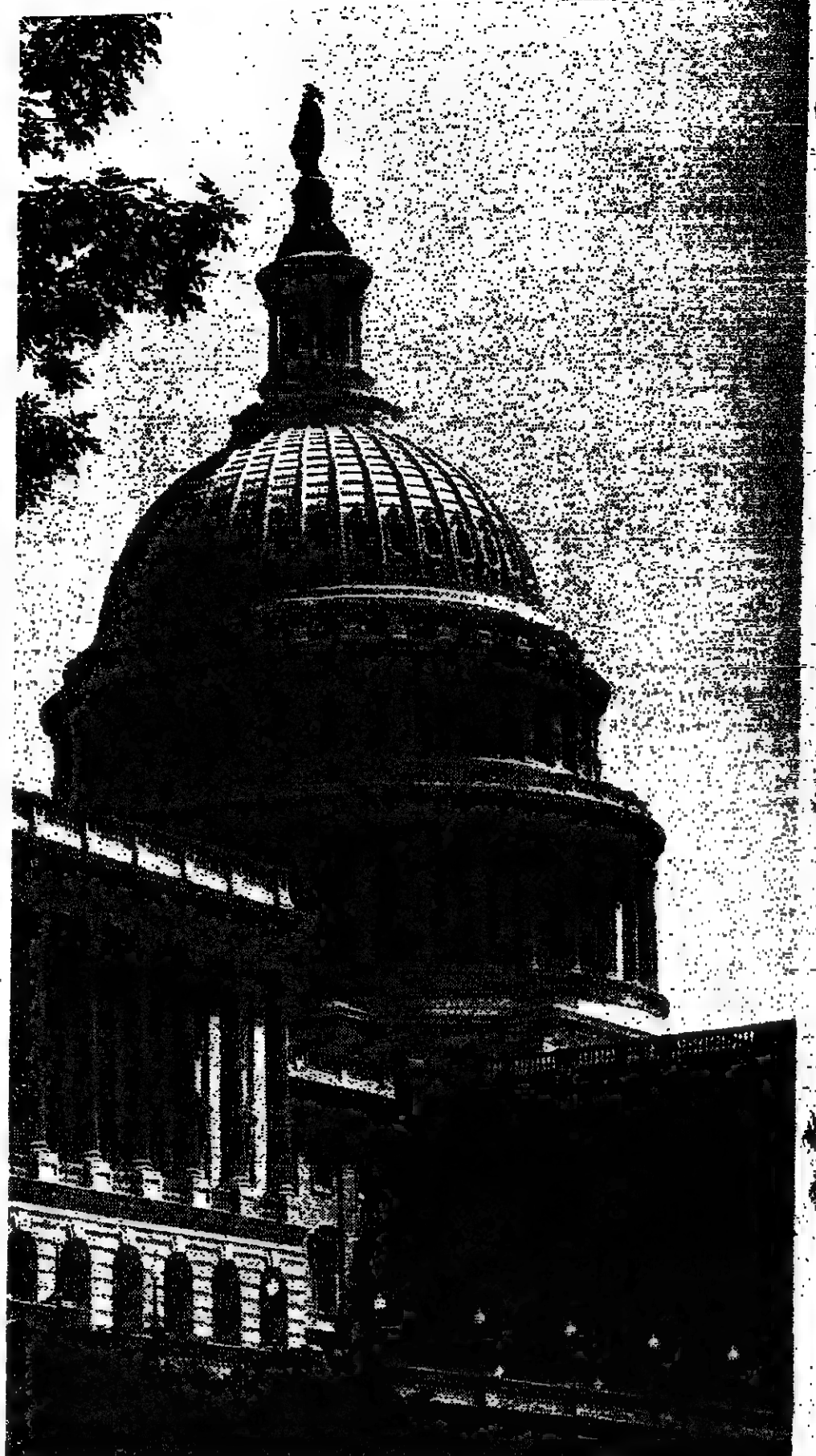
The GAO study, which was expected to be released this summer but which probably will not be out until late this year or early 1993, is particularly important because the GAO is the investigative body of Congress, and Congress is where some of the tougher questions about derivatives are being asked.

For now, Congressional interest in derivatives remains at an educational level, with banks and end-users helping the legislators learn more about the business. As Joe Bauman of the Isda says: "We are finding that there is still a fair amount of education to be done, because as a group they have not been singularly looking at financial markets, and certainly not the derivatives market."

Bankers feel this educational process is paying off. Mr Doug Kidd, who is responsible for government relations at Bankers Trust, says: "Members of Congress originally viewed derivatives as nothing more than new positioning tools for financial institutions to make directional bets on markets. Now that education generally is better, and end-users have participated in seminars and talked about how they use derivatives, there's a new appreciation among members of what derivatives are used for."

Although they may now be better informed, legislators are still keen to learn more about derivatives, and a series of committee hearings on the business will be held this winter, including several by Mr Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the senior Congressional banking committee and a regular thorn in the side of US banks. With him, other legislators and many regulators still on the derivatives trail, banks cannot relax.

Patrick Harverson



Getting in on the act US lawmakers have woken up to the pitfalls of derivatives

Glynis Gurne

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DERIVATIVES 9

JAPAN

JGB futures stir bad memories

THE CLOSED nature of Tokyo's financial markets was highlighted by the controversial launch of Japanese government bond futures on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange this month.

The launch of the JGB futures by Simex, which also runs the Nikkei futures market, has brought back bad memories to Tokyo stock exchange officials, who blamed the plunge in the stock market on excessive futures and options transactions.

Many in the financial markets point out that such misconceptions stem from the heavy regulation over derivative products in Japan, which has also kept the use of futures and options under-developed.

Simex launched the JGB contract after suggestions from the Managed Futures Association in the US. Mr Ang Swee Tian, president of Simex, said: "Earlier in the year we indicated that we were study-

ing the possibilities, and there was no indication of concern then," he says.

However, TSE officials have been angered by the launch of the cheaper contract by Simex. "We only got a fax in August from Simex notifying us of the launch," says the TSE. JGB futures are already traded in London and Chicago, but this will be the first launch outside of Tokyo in the same time zone.

Simex says the commission levels are around half of those in Tokyo. TSE officials have tried to convince Simex to cancel the plan, without success. "The launch will erode liquidity in Tokyo, hence distorting the market," says a TSE spokesman. Officials also visited Tokyo recently, have also denounced Simex as a "free rider" copying successful products on other exchanges.

Mr Ang contends that the move by Simex will not frag-

ment the market, since Tokyo's JGB futures market is already huge with widespread participation. Volume on the Tokyo JGB futures is about six times that of Singapore.

Tokyo financial authorities have warned Japanese brokers and traders against market-ing, or using the Simex futures. However, this will not stop overseas investors, including overseas affiliates of Japanese brokers, from trading. Some traders point out that the move by Simex reflects growing demand from non-TSE members who want to trade JGB futures without paying exorbitant TSE membership fees.

However, a trader at a UK

brokerage based in Tokyo says he will not use the Simex market until its liquidity and pricing efficiency has improved. "The real test is going to come when the Tokyo futures market is locked due to a large sized order," he adds.

The small turnover is expected to keep large-lot players away, and concerns over the open outcry system exists. Unlike the JGB futures traded in London, the contracts are not compatible with the size of each contract in Singapore half the ¥100m of the Tokyo contract, and positions are not transferable.

One trader at a leading Japanese house, however, points out that trading on Simex

holds great potential. "From the users point of view, competition between exchanges isn't a bad thing. The TSE shouldn't involve market users in its rows," he says.

It is not the first time TSE officials have failed to persuade Simex to change its stance on products linked to the Japanese market. The TSE tried to convince Simex to implement trading restrictions on its Nikkei 225 futures contracts, following the crash in the Tokyo stock market.

Tokyo financial authorities blamed futures and options contracts for volatility on the underlying stock market, and implemented a spate of trading restrictions over the past

two years. They also requested that Simex introduce stricter rules to curb trading, but Simex failed to comply.

The result of tighter restrictions and higher trading costs on the Osaka stock exchange, where the Nikkei futures are listed, resulted in a shift of trading to Singapore. Japanese officials were angered by the plunge in derivatives trading on the Osaka exchange last year, while activity jumped on Simex.

In July, the TSE drafted a new set of restrictions for the stock index futures market, including the introduction of a circuit breaker mechanism to suspend transactions when prices swing wildly.

Average daily trading volume of Nikkei futures	
Year	Number of contracts
Simex	
1988	2,348
1989	3,492
1990	3,715
1991	3,045
1992	13,057
1993 (Jan-Sep)	18,938
TSE	
1988	21,732
1989	21,858
1990	55,239
1991	87,680
1992	48,289
1993 (Jan-Aug)	36,251

Source: Simex, Osaka Securities Exchange

A separate group of Osaka and Tokyo stock exchange members has been working on a new stock index for futures, and a new index was announced by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, which calculates the Nikkei 225 index, on Octo-

ber 8. The Nikkei 300 is a capitalisation weighted average of 300 stocks, and a new futures contract based on the index is expected to replace Osaka's Nikkei 225 futures, which is a simple price average of 225 stocks, and has been criticised as being easily manipulated.

Meanwhile, although Japan's new coalition government is calling for less regulation and freer markets, the ministry of finance is far from easing its grip on new financial products, including new derivative instruments.

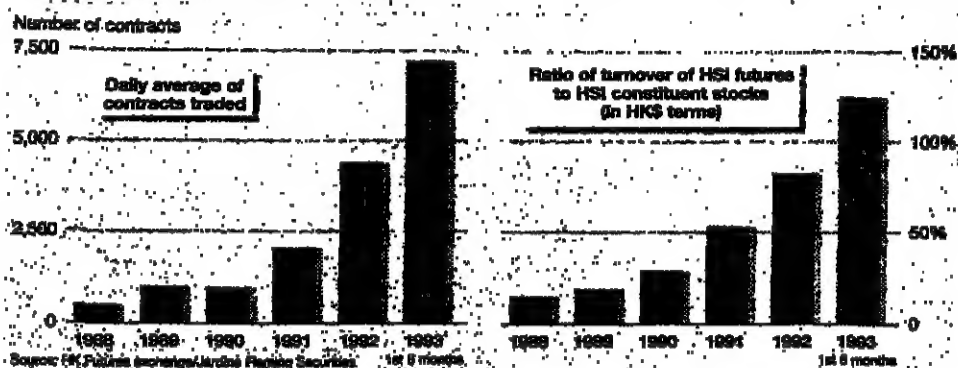
Earlier this year, the Committee to Make Tokyo Markets More Transparent and International (CTTI), an industry body made up of Japanese and foreign financial institutions, criticised the ministry's decision-making in evaluating new financial products saying it was unclear and inconsistent.

Emiko Terazono

HONG KONG

Focus on a dynamic present

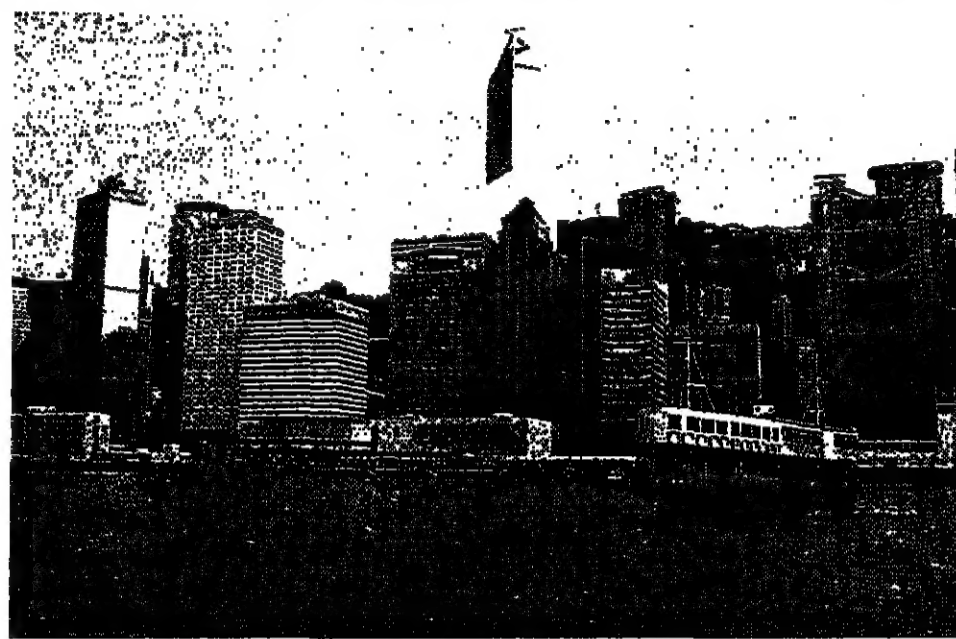
Hang Seng index futures market



Hong Kong stock prices, and the present low interest rate environment.

These issues have raised a total of US\$829.5m (around HK\$7.25bn), which is marginally less than the total capital raised in the stock market from the 18 rights issues announced during the first eight months of the year.

Mr Han On, managing director of Warburg Asset Management Hong Kong, said: "This change is inevitable, as the market matures and comes under the international spotlight."



Hong Kong's derivatives market is experiencing a grand rebirth

Samuel Murray

Before the 1987 stock market crash, Hong Kong had operated the second most active index futures contract in the world, but the period since then has been one of only gradual recovery. Turnover dwindled sufficiently in 1990 that there were many calls for the closure of the entire Futures Exchange.

For the exchange's new management, the first push was to enforce reforms which would prevent any possible repeat of 1987. The second was to encourage nervous former participants to return to the futures market. It has succeeded on both fronts.

The recent repayment of this fund has coincided with a growing international investor focus on the Hong Kong stock market, and the result has been a rapid growth in demand for derivative products.

In the past 18 months, most of the large US securities houses have either opened up or upgraded Hong Kong offices, and one of their primary aims has been to build up derivatives business, an area which had always been peripheral.

A number of the US groups

have purchased seats on the Futures Exchange, and along with other leading European and Japanese brokerages, they have helped to promote the market.

In the first six months of 1993, turnover in Hang Seng index futures increased by 151 per cent, compared with the first half of 1992. The strong performance in the Hang Seng Index has been reflected in increased trading in the Futures Exchange's latest derivative product, the Hang Seng index option, which was introduced in March and saw record trading in October.

The derivatives market has become dominated by the leading foreign securities houses, which have the advantages of greater capital resources, overseas expertise and global distribution. They are bringing in a global client base for new investment products.

For example, Morgan Stanley claims to have accounted for between 30 per cent and 60 per cent of daily turnover in the futures market in recent months, while Swiss Bank has taken a substantial share of trading in the options market.

The arrival of overseas brokerages has also resulted in a

broadening of the range of available products to include over-the-counter or listed covered warrants and, recently, convertible loan stock.

The US securities houses were primarily responsible for introducing the benefits of convertible bond/preference share issues to conservatively-managed Hong Kong companies.

During 1993, Jardine Strategic Holdings, Dairy Farm, Wharf Holdings, Amoy Properties, Sino Land, Guangdong Investment and Henderson China all used convertible issues as a means of capitalising on the performance of

When activity in the futures market peaked in 1987, index futures contracts were regarded as the ultimate speculative tool for retail investors. Trading had soared to 27,000 contracts a day, with an underlying contract value of more than HK\$4.5bn (US\$615m).

During September this year the average daily turnover was only 9,000 contracts. However, this is around 10 times higher than the level when Futures Exchange chief executive Mr Gary Knight joined in January 1991.

Mr Knight said: "The futures market is now doing 150 per cent of the underlying stock

market turnover on a daily basis, and that is good by any international standards."

He attributes the growth in turnover to the performance of the underlying stock market, the rapid expansion in the number of members of the futures market, and the increase in sophistication of investors in Hong Kong.

"In 1990, a lot of people said the futures market shouldn't exist. It is now accepted as a meaningful part of the financial scene," said Mr Knight.

During 1992, there has been a substantial increase in the amount of mutual fund money coming into the Hong Kong stock market from the US. Those fund managers have demanded more sophisticated hedging tools, particularly futures contracts and over-the-counter derivative products.

The stock exchange is in the final throes of introducing a computerised trading system - automatically matching buyers with sellers - which is a precursor to lifting prohibition on

Simon Davies

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DERIVATIVES 10

MEXICO

MEXICO'S growing financial integration with the US is propelling it into the age of derivatives.

On the Chicago Board of Trade, trading volume on listed options on Telefonos de Mexico, Mexico's largest stock, runs to more than \$30bn a year, making it one of the most popular options on the exchange. Some 200 to 300 trades in Mexican warrants are executed every day in the over-the-counter market in Luxembourg. The market in tailor-made derivatives on blue-chip Mexican equities, debt instruments or the peso is thriving, and is even larger than the listed warrant market in Luxembourg.

Such instruments have become highly popular with investors wishing to hedge against falls in the stock market, rise in interest rates, or simply leverage their exposure to Mexican assets. They have also proven profitable for the investment banks that offer them, led by Merrill Lynch, Bear Stearns, Banker's Trust, and Goldman Sachs.

The derivative business conducted in Mexico, though, has been limited, mainly because of government regulation. Until recently the only types of derivatives that could be offered in Mexico were *cobertura*, *tesebonos*, and *ajustabonos*.

LET'S JUST SAY IT'S A LITTLE UNDERLYING SECURITY IN CASE THE OPTIONS MARKET GOES STOUR



tesebonos, *ajustabonos*. The *cobertura* is an over-the-counter exchange rate contract, in which the investor pays a premium determined in the market for the right to receive at some specified time in the future the observed peso/dollar devaluation over the period of the *cobertura*. *Tesebono* is a treasury bill that offers dollar rate of return, protecting the investor against the devaluation. The *ajustabono* offers a nominal rate of return

plus the inflation rate over life of the bill.

The *cobertura* has been popular with Mexicans keen to hedge or speculate against exchange rate fluctuations, with daily volume over \$1bn. (Foreigners have had to pay withholding tax of 15 per cent, so they have shied away from the market. However the withholding tax has just been reduced to 4.9 per cent, and foreigners might now move into the market.)

But the *cobertura*, like the *tesebono*, is not a full currency hedge, since investors are only paid in pesos. Were the peso to be made convertible, investors would not be able to buy dollars at the official exchange rate. However, with the offshore derivative business growing by leaps and bounds, last year the Mexican government decided to stem the tide, and expand the home-based derivative market. The Mexican Securities and Exchange Commission allowed the stock market to offer listed warrants

on blue-chip Mexican stocks. The warrants started trading in October, and average volume has been modest, at about \$1m a day.

So far the warrant market has suffered from over-regulation, lack of liquidity, and foreigners have preferred to keep on buying OTC offshore. It can take several months to obtain permission to issue a warrant, a privilege only granted to Mexican brokerages, which limits the overall liquidity of the market. Mutual funds are still awaiting permission to buy the warrants.

Mexican brokerages are also unwilling to trade or comment on warrants issued by their rivals. This has further prevented the market from reaching a critical mass.

While the government's conservative attitude has been criticised by banks keen to compete with the US in derivatives, it has won support outside broker circles. "There is a virtue in being cautious. It is much worse to go when you

are not ready, than to wait too long," says Catherine Mansell, an academic and author of the best-selling *The new finance in Mexico*.

Next year the Mexican authorities plan to open listed options market in Mexico for equities. Some time after that, the stock market may offer

considerable interest. "It's difficult to imagine the sort of volume traded on the Telmex option, but there should be significant interest," he says.

Participants stress the synergy between different derivative markets, suggesting that derivative instruments will take off when all are available.

The market in tailor-made derivatives on blue-chip Mexican equities, debt instruments or the peso is thriving

listed options on the peso, and interest rates, and future contracts on baskets of stocks. No decision has yet been made about when to offer such products.

The success of such markets depends on liquidity, how the clearing system is arranged, and restrictions on market makers, says Juan Jose Suarez, co-head of derivative products at Banamex, Mexico's largest bank. But if regulation is flexible enough, Mr Suarez expects

and trading is liquid. "It would be very helpful [for Mexican derivatives] to develop a liquid and efficient futures market," says Trey Rhine, a vice-president at Merrill Lynch, the market leader in Mexican derivatives. A futures market would stimulate liquidity in the underlying market and other derivatives, and help investors arbitrage price differences between assets that offer the same return, ensuring a more efficient market.

Many foreigners will still prefer to trade outside Mexico, if only because there are more comfortable dealing in dollar-denominated options, and in their own time zone, says Jeremy Campbell-Lamerton, managing director of the London branch of Inverlat. Since the price of an option includes the implicit interest rates during the option's life span, investors will find it cheaper to buy a dollar option than a peso option, if, as is now the case, expected peso devaluation does not offset the peso/dollar interest rate differential.

So far the signs from the authorities regarding regulation have been conflicting. On the one hand, Mexico's finance ministry is itself one of the world's largest users of options and futures, hedging against rises in US interest rates and falls in oil prices. It presumably would want to encourage the development of a domestic derivatives market to allow Mexican companies and investors to follow a similarly prudent

financial strategy.

In a possible sign of greater flexibility, the Securities and Exchange Commission finally gave Banamex permission to sell in Mexico an equity-linked note, which gives investors 7 per cent of the upside of the stock market, and protects the principal. Previously such equity-derivative offerings, done by Banamex or US houses such as Merrill Lynch, have had to be offered offshore in Luxembourg.

However, the Central Bank remains worried about financial institutions' ability to manage the risks involved with derivatives. This was highlighted by last year's fiasco over *ajustabonos* (bonds that offer a real interest rate, that are, in effect, a play on future inflation rates) in which Mexican brokerages and banks lost at the very minimum hundreds of millions of dollars.

But just as Mexico found in the early 1980s that it was impossible to prevent capital outflows even with capital controls, Mexico is finding that one way or another the derivative business has arrived. The question is whether it will continue to flourish outside Mexico, or whether it will be brought onshore.

Damian Fraser

EMERGING MARKETS

Limited scope for development

THE USE of derivatives for risk management purposes may seem pretty old hat to the blue chip companies of the world's more developed countries, but for companies in some of the emerging economies it is a skill still largely in its infancy.

That is not for want of sufficiently volatile conditions. Companies in developing countries are just as exposed as their western rivals - if not more so - to the vicissitudes of modern life. As companies turn away from their domestic markets and grow increasingly international, they often face the problems of fluctuations in exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices.

A company in the developing world which borrows cheaply in dollars to finance the construction of a new factory, for example, might suddenly find itself paying more than it had bargained for if the domestic currency suffers a sharp devaluation. Given the increasing integration of world markets, fluctuations in the developed world are rapidly transmitted to the developing economies.

Added to these external factors, some developing countries (for example Brazil) suffer from very high inflation. Under such circumstances, companies are often forced to consider a much shorter time-frame, focusing on daily or monthly financial management rather than looking much further ahead.

"High inflation typically reduces the maturity range of available financial instruments, which limits the ability of firms to deal with currency (or interest rate) exposures beyond a short horizon," says Mr Jack Glen, an economist at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in his recent report on risk management in developing countries.

For example, in Brazil (where the domestic capital markets are very sophisticated, offering a broad range of different instruments for managing a variety of risks) the very high inflation rate and economic uncertainty "prevents the development of medium and long-term risk management instruments", according to Mr Glen.

For the normal range of interest rate and foreign exchange risks encountered by companies in developing countries, however, it is possible to use some of the risk management techniques and instruments which have already been developed and put to use in the world's more sophisticated financial centres.

So far, the extent to which these risk management methods have been employed in the emerging markets is quite limited. As Ms Elizabeth Morrissey, managing partner of Kleinman International Consultants, the US-based consultancy which monitors emerging markets, points out: "Some of these countries barely have domestic bond markets, let alone their own derivatives markets."

Instead, companies in developing economies would tend to

turn to US banks or the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank, for assistance in managing their foreign exchange or interest rate exposure. "We are seeing the increasing use of risk management instruments but it still

Companies in developing countries are just as exposed as their rivals in the west - if not more so - to the vicissitudes of modern life

tends to be done on a 'deal by deal' basis," says Ms Morrissey.

"Derivatives grew in the developed world so it's only natural they should percolate to less sophisticated financial centres," says Mr Mark Coombs, an emerging market specialist at ANZ Grindlays Bank.

He points out that the use of derivatives in the emerging markets is becoming more prevalent, with an increasing emphasis on structured deals which are tailored to the needs of the individual company. "The use of derivatives is growing across the board in

from Bolivia to Ghana - to set up currency and interest rate swaps to manage their exposure."

To take one example, an Egyptian manufacturing concern which had secured low-cost yen financing to purchase Japanese equipment, suddenly found itself a victim of the appreciating yen. The company had mainly dollar revenues, so the yen's appreciation in the latter half of the 1980s meant that its financing costs soared. Each one yen decrease in the yen/dollar exchange rate cost the company an additional \$300,000 annually in interest expenses.

The IFC points out that for nearly three years the company was forced to accept the mismatch (of yen interest expenses and dollar revenues) because the international swap markets were effectively closed

to them. Eventually, with the help of the IFC, the company entered into a currency swap that exchanged a portion of its yen financing for dollar financing.

While the IFC was able to help in this instance, in many cases, companies in developing countries are denied the sort of access to risk management tools that western companies enjoy and employ.

Mr Glen highlights several reasons why the use of risk management instruments may be restricted or limited, including credit considerations, regulation and the size of the transactions.

"The derivatives products markets are credit sensitive and as most long-term derivative securities involve credit risk, direct access generally is limited to companies having at least investment grade credit ratings," he says in his report.

Creditworthiness is a significant factor in pricing and access for swaps, making it difficult for developing country firms to have access to the international swap market. Without a track record or a

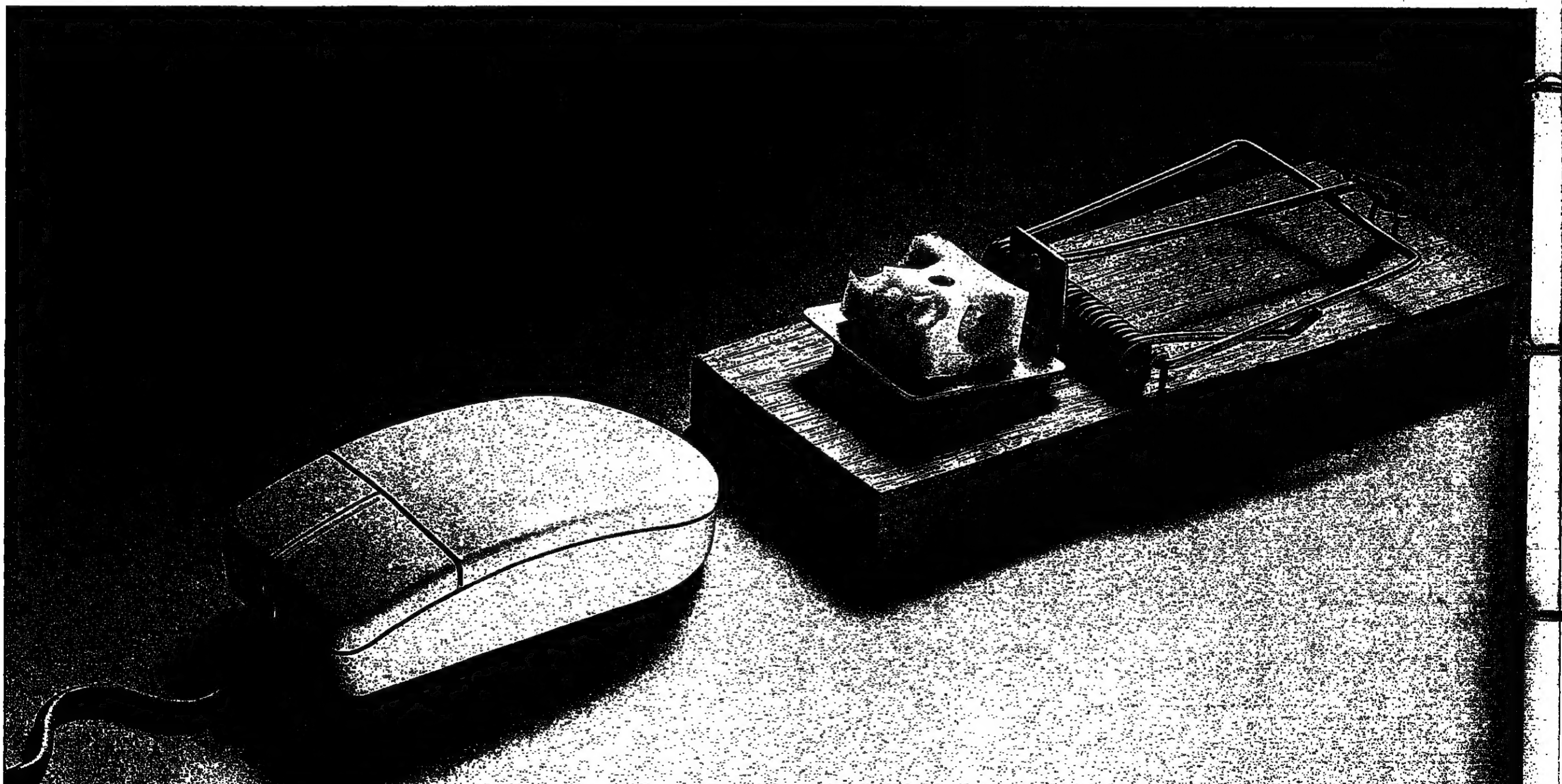
credit rating, companies may not have access to risk management instruments. In cases where they do have access, it may only be to short-term instruments, or the conditions may stipulate the company post collateral which could make the deal more expensive.

In some developing countries, domestic financial regulations which prevent the use of risk management instruments - sometimes because the authorities are concerned that the fine line between use for speculation and use for hedging purposes might be blurred. In some cases it may simply prove too costly to conduct the transaction, either because of the tax treatment or because of the rather small size of the deal itself.

Given these limitations, it could be some time before the use of derivatives is as widespread in the developing countries as in the western world.

Sara Webb

* *New Frontiers in Developing Countries: Managing Risk*, a discussion paper by Mr Jack Glen, published by the International Finance Corporation.



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مكتبة الامم

DERIVATIVES 11

Profile: SWISS BANK CORPORATION

A short cut to domination



Simon Bunce, head of interest rate derivative sales at SBC.

"We pride ourselves on the quality of our derivatives education package which is run from Chicago and networked throughout the world," said Mr

Bunce. Unlike many other banks, SBC staff are sent on two- to three-week courses, their mobile phones confiscated to sever contact.

The integration of cash and derivatives markets is most advanced in SBC's foreign exchange business, probably its strongest platform.

SBC has trained its 170-strong foreign exchange sales team to price and structure their own options so that they are now an integrated cash and derivatives sales team.

Other elements of the O'Connor legacy can be found in use of specialist analytic skills in areas such as risk management. Each book (foreign exchange, interest rate and equities) has a global risk manager, who measures the bank's exposure, and in each case that function is provided by a former O'Connor partner.

There are still some areas of weakness. Although O'Connor brought

equity derivatives expertise to the table, SBC's cash market business in equities has still not recovered from its disastrous "big bang" takeover of UK stockbroker Savory, Miln.

However, the bank now has a three-quarters formed traditional research and sales function with an industry thrust, in line with present trends.

"The O'Connor franchise in equity derivatives was already very strong," said Mr Steve Smith, head of equity derivative sales, and has allowed SBC to develop innovative retail products, such as guaranteed return instruments, high-yield unit trusts and warrant issues. One example is SBC's innovative bond issues with "knock-out" warrants for Benetton and Roche.

SBC also produced an options package to protect Hongkong Land against a rise in the share price of Trafalgar House, when it took a 20 per cent stake in the UK property company last year.

SBC's other main weakness is geographical. Unlike the US firms which are its principal competitors, it cannot claim to have a truly global reach. Its efforts to develop a strong base in the US are still at an early

stage, and are hampered by its inability to merge operations because of the US Glass-Steagall law, which separates banking and securities business.

One of the stated aims of Vision 2000 was to be among the world's 10 most profitable banks. Profitable, for banks, increasingly means return on equity: SBC's return on equity is around 10 per cent, rather than the 20 per cent returns shown by many US investment banks, which do not have the overheads of a clearing bank business. However, the capital markets and treasury division of SBC already makes a return on equity of more than 20 per cent.

Its newfound derivatives strength has given the bank greater leverage across all its business areas. The last few years seem to have shown that the SBC planners got it right: derivatives have become the key strategic market in the 1990s and SBC is well positioned to take advantage of the growth of the market.

"You can develop so much when you have a machine that works," said Mr Bunce.

Tracy Corrigan

Profile: MCDONALD'S

Cutting costs of hamburgers

THE world of derivatives, McDonald's Corporation is a typical user. It is a large company, which, because a lot of its earnings and borrowings emanate from overseas, faces currency and interest rate risks in many markets.

What makes McDonald's particularly interesting, however, is that there can be few companies where the benefits of derivatives are so clearly apparent - not just to the chief financial officer and corporate treasurer, but to the thousands of people across the world who run restaurants under the famous yellow arch. They, as much as anyone, have been able to enjoy the rewards of derivatives.

Mr Carleton D Pearl, McDonald's treasurer, explains how his franchisees are able to use derivative instruments to cut the cost of their borrowings. "There are programmes run by our banks that finance the franchisees, which include a cap in the cost of the loan. What is interesting about that is, if you're a small- or medium-sized business owner, and you're trying to put a cap on a prime rate loan in the US, you would have to figure out how many options you would need to buy on an exchange. Now, how could they possibly deal with that? What the banker

can do, is make a loan at 150 basis points over commercial paper, or a loan at 175 over commercial paper, and promise you that you'll never have to pay more than 10 per cent."

In other words, says Mr Pearl, "derivatives can deliver value to small- and medium-sized businesses by enabling them to manage risks that they're not equipped to manage. Most people think deriva-



tives are for large companies with big staffs. Our banks have found a way to deliver these instruments so that the small business owner can use them."

Mr Pearl clearly likes to spread the derivatives gospel. He was one of the co-authors of the Group of Thirty's report into derivatives published this summer, a report that essentially gave the business a clean bill of health.

One point on which the G30 placed particular emphasis, was the notion of accountability - the need for the financial

officers at companies who use derivatives to keep their senior managers and boards of directors fully informed, both of their activities and the extent of their company's exposure.

It is a message that Mr Pearl says McDonald's has always taken seriously. "We have extensive discussions with the board of directors about these instruments. It's been an ongoing dialogue. In the early days we reported on each transaction we did. To this day, every time they meet we give them a report on our derivatives portfolio marked to market. And for our own senior management, we prepare a report which looks at not only the exposure on a marked-to-market basis, but which also provides an analysis of our potential exposure."

He has been McDonald's treasurer since 1983, but the company first began using the products in the early 1980s. Back then, it was a natural progression from the risk management techniques McDonald's was already using, says Mr Pearl.

"We started doing parallel loans in the early 80s, and the next step from parallel loans to swaps was relatively straightforward. If you have been doing three-month foreign exchange contracts, the move

out to five-year forward contracts is one that carries somewhat of a different risk, but you're moving along a spectrum, and thus not doing something totally new."

Mr Pearl says the company embraced derivatives early on because they offered a better, and often cheaper, way to control risk, and since the early days it has not strayed that far from the plain vanilla derivatives products that hedge interest rate and currency risk. A look at its derivatives portfolio would show that the company is involved in almost 100 transactions, with 23 different counterparties in 12 currencies.

The chief motivation has always been saving money. "It's critical to understand this about what we do here - our job is to reduce all the costs as much as possible, so we can deliver the best value hamburger to our customers. Therefore, if we can reduce the cost of financings and land acquisitions and construction, we can lower the cost of selling hamburgers to our customers. That is our objective. We are not here to run another business trading derivatives."

The cost savings can come in a variety of ways, says Mr Pearl. "For example, if our cash flows and cash needs change, and our view of markets change, to go out and call a bond issue, or buy it in the market and reissue shorter-term or longer-term floating debt, can be a very expensive proposition. However, doing it through derivatives is very much easier and much less expensive."

Derivatives also provide the company with more flexibility in its financings. "We did a Danish krona financing - fixed rate krona with US dollar commercial paper. Therefore, we got Danish krona fixed-rate loans at 100 basis points below local financing sources. This, at a time when the local bond market did not do fixed rate financing," Mr Pearl also cites an example of how the company used equity options to reduce the cost of a \$700m stock buy-back programme.

Occasionally, McDonald's employs more complex, hybrid forms of derivatives, such as a

few years ago when they issued inverse floating rate bonds with coupons that, if interest rates went down, the rate went up. "We swapped those into commercial paper borrowings. It was pretty esoteric, but the essence of the deal was that we created financing below the cost of our commercial paper financing."

McDonald's does not use derivatives in a speculative fashion, to earn a profit from the products. "I've often been asked about whether we make money. Well, we don't keep track of it that way. We think of each financing, and ask: does it make economic sense relative to the alternatives?"

The number of staff working with derivatives at McDonald's is small. Mr Pearl has five with him - one director, two managers and two analysts - out of a total of 30.

It was different in the early 1980s, when derivatives were still new, and only a few corporations were using them. Mr Pearl can get nostalgic about the early days. "The economics used to be much better. We used to be able to do some swaps that got us 100 basis points below libor. Sadly, those days are gone forever."

Patrick Harverson

Profile: LONDON CLEARING HOUSE

Unsung hero is unique

TUCKED away in the back streets of the City of London is the unsung hero of the capital's rapidly-growing derivatives industry, the London Clearing House (LCH).

LCH, which was founded in 1888 to clear coffee and sugar trades, plays a pivotal role in ensuring the financial integrity and the efficiency of four of London's exchanges.

These are the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE), the London Commodity Exchange (LCE), the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE) and the London Metal Exchange (LME).

LCH meets its two main priorities through its primary role as the central counterparty for trades executed on the four exchanges. Its ability to take on counterparty risk provides a solid trading framework for its 171 members because their counterparty risk is considerably reduced and market liquidity is enhanced.

In addition, LCH's unique position as the only futures

clearing house in the world to clear several markets and centralised and automated system has allowed members to make considerable savings in their settlement costs.

"Members with positions on all four markets can cover all their liabilities with one single payment," says Mr David Hardy, LCH's managing director.

LCH controls the risk of being exposed to a potential default by a member in two ways, through counterparty assessment and margining.

Applicants for LCH membership are vetted thoroughly before they become members and LCH continuously reviews existing members to ensure they satisfy the following criteria:

- Relevant exchange membership;
- Relevant authorisation under the Financial Services Act of 1986;
- Banking arrangements for the immediate transfer of

funds to LCH on demand;

- Adequate resources to comply with day-to-day requirements of LCH membership;
- Minimum financial resource requirements.

LCH monitors each member's risk exposure on all four exchanges and analyses it in relation to their ability to cover their liabilities.

If the LCH believes that a member's business is out of line with its resources - for example, it might have an unusually large position or a concentration of its margin in a single contract - it will ask the member to put up additional resources or ask it to restrict its business volume.

So far, LCH has managed to assess its counterparties with a high degree of accuracy and in its 105-year history it has only had to expect one member, a subsidiary of BCCI, in 1987.

The other way in which LCH dampens down its risk profile is by setting margins which

Continued on page 12

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DERIVATIVES 12

Meaningful expressions

Asset allocation: dividing investment funds among markets to achieve diversification or maximum return.

As-you-like option (or chooser option or the call-or-put option): enables the holder to convert from one style of option to a different style of option over a preset period of time.

Average rate option (or Asian option): an option in which the settlement is based on the difference between the given strike and the average price of the underlying stock or index on selected dates.

Barrier options: a family of path-dependent options whose pay-off pattern and survival to the expiration date depend not only on the final price of the underlying security but also on whether or not the underlying security sells at or goes through a pre-determined barrier at any time during the life of the option.

Various Barrier options include:

Down-and-out call/put: an option which expires worthless if the market price of the underlying security

drops below a pre-determined price.

Down-and-in call/put: an option which becomes effective if the market price of the underlying security drops below a pre-determined price.

Up-and-out call/put: an option that expires worthless if the market price of the underlying security rises above a pre-determined price.

Up-and-in call/put: an option that becomes effective if the market price of the underlying security rises above a predetermined price.

Best-of-two option (or either-or option or alternative option): provides the option holder with a payoff based on the independent performances of two separate and distinct securities or indices.

Box options: a tax efficient method of using cash to generate capital gains, while maintaining a conservative investment approach to funds management. Instead of placing cash in a money market instrument and

GIVEN the rapid growth in the derivatives industry and the increasingly exotic nature of the products which are being launched, it is hardly surprising that newcomers to the industry are confused or misled by the terminology. In addition, the vast difference between the perceived meaning and the actual meaning of many of the terms poses serious problems for the industry's regulators, lawyers and insurers.

In a recent paper, Mr Graham Cox, group economist at the Sun Life Assurance Society, points out that very often the perceived meaning of a "hedge fund" is a fund with all risk eliminated by the use of hedging positions, whereas the actual meaning is a portfolio of leveraged positions, normally including derivatives. Mr Cox notes that there have been attempts in the past to sort out more

effective and less misleading names for the various functions and products in the derivatives industry, but with little success so far. However, there are numerous dictionaries which give lucid explanations of the jargon and many banks and securities houses which trade in derivatives have published useful information packs detailing how the more complicated products work.

generating interest income, equity options are purchased the payoffs of which create capital gains that can be offset against current capital losses.

Call option: the right to buy a given stock, commodity, index, or futures contract at a fixed price on or before a specified date.

Cap: contract between a borrower and a lender where the borrower is assured that he will not have to pay more than some maximum interest

rate on borrowed funds.

Clearing house: an affiliate of a futures or options

Financial Times writers Antonia Sharpe and Laurie Morse draw on the large mass of literature to compile a glossary of words and terms used in the derivatives industry

exchange which matches and guarantees trades and holds performance bonds posted by dealers. Acts as a

counterparty to every trade, reducing credit risk.

Collar: a floating rate debt

amounts of two currencies at the spot exchange rate. Over the term of the agreement, the counterparty exchange fixed or floating rate interest payments in their swapped currencies. At maturity, the principal amount is reswapped at a predetermined exchange rate so the parties end up with their original currencies.

Deferred strike or deferred start option (or forward start option): allows the holder to defer the setting of the strike price until some future time, up to an agreed deadline.

Derivative: a contract the value of which changes in concert with the price movements in a related or underlying commodity or financial instrument. The term covers standardised, exchange-traded futures and options, as well as

His wife didn't understand him - and after two years in the derivatives business, nor does anybody else.

over-the-counter swaps, options, and other customised instruments.

Equity swap: a contract between two counterparties to exchange two different cashflows over time. Over the life of the swap one party agrees to pay the rate of return on an equity or the equity

index while the other party agrees to pay a floating or fixed rate of interest. **Exploding option (or one-touch option):** a European-style call spread with an early exercise price trigger.

Floor: an aspect of a floating rate debt contract that specifies a minimum interest rate for a borrower.

Forward: an over-the-counter agreement for a buyer and seller to exchange a particular good for a particular price at a specified future date.

Futures contract: an agreement between a buyer and seller to exchange a particular good for a particular price at a future date as specified in a contract common to all participants in a market on an organised futures exchange. Collateral must be posted for performance bonds, and positions are marked to market at least once a day.

Hedge: a transaction that reduces risk of an underlying security or commodity position by making the appropriate offsetting derivative transaction. Usually limits potential reward of the underlying position.

Hybrid security: a complex security consisting of virtually any combination of two or more risk management building blocks - bond or note, forward, future, or option.

Interest-rate swap: the exchange between counterparties of fixed-rate and floating-rate debt in a single currency.

Ladder option (or step-Look option): provides the holder with a mechanism of locking in gains on an underlying security during the life of the option, before its expiry.

Lookback option: an option the payout of which is calculated using the highest intrinsic value of the underlying security or index over the life of the option. In the case of a Lookback call, the highest market price is used whereas for a Lookback put, the lowest market price is used.

Outperformance option: a call option which allows an investor to capitalise on diverging performances of two

underlying securities, which can be individual stocks, customised baskets of stocks or a specific index.

Put option: the right to sell a particular stock, bond, commodity or index at a specified future date at a specified price.

Quanto option (or guaranteed exchange rate option or currency protected option): an option in which foreign exchange risks in an underlying security have been eliminated.

Risk reversal: this strategy combines the purchase of a put option with the sale of a call option. The put option preserves the capital value of

LOOK - BARELY AWARE AND HIS AUREAN INTO SWAPS



the shareholding while the sale of a call option reduces or eliminates the cost of this insurance, at the expense of giving up some of the upside potential of the stock.

Swap: a contract to exchange a stream of periodic payments with a counterparty. Swaps are available in and between all active financial markets.

Swaption: an option to enter into a swap contract.

Texas hedge: a transaction that increases risk; two or more related positions whose risk is additive, rather than offsetting.

Warrant: an option to purchase or sell an underlying instrument at a given price and time or series of prices and times. A warrant differs from a put or call option in that it is ordinarily issued for longer than a year.

Sources: Dictionary of financial risk management, by Gary Gastineau; Option volatility and pricing strategies, by Sheldon Netenber; Equity derivatives glossary published by Swiss Bank Corporation

Unsung hero is unique

Continued from page 11

are calculated daily and which members have to cover daily with a deposit of funds or with collateral.

Margin, which is a measure of the risk of a member's positions, has two main components: initial margin to provide cover for potential adverse movements and variation margin to cover previous price movements.

Mr Hardy says that margins are essential so that markets can be seen to be able to trade in times of extreme price volatility but at the same time provide protection for members by not allowing their liabilities and resources to get out of balance.

For example, during the Gulf War, margin rates were increased substantially to reflect the big swings in the price of gas oil futures. LCH asked members to improve their resources by way of bank guarantees. When prices stabi-

lised the bank guarantees were returned to the members.

"Margining can be seen as the barometer of the volatility in the market and it serves to neutralise the risk," says Mr Hardy.

He adds that LCH and its members are given additional protection by the diverse nature of the markets and the products cleared by LCH.

"The risks will be different at any one time," he says, noting that during the stock market crashes of 1987 and 1989 there was hardly any reaction on the other exchanges.

LCH regularly holds more than £1bn in cash in margin money which it invests in overnight money markets. It pays members interest on their margins - usually the bid rate on the London interbank rate (Libor) minus ¼ - and very often members leave more money than they have to with LCH because of the favourable interest rate.

Surplus interest income on



David Hardy: one payment covers all liabilities of a member

the margins forms part of LCH's income. As well as keeping transaction costs down, the interest income helps LCH achieve its third priority, that is, making a sensible profit for its owners.

LCH is owned by six leading UK clearing banks: Barclays Bank, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, National Westminster

Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Standard Chartered Bank. These six banks provide the backing for LCH's counterparty risk, which amounts to £150m.

Mr Hardy is confident that LCH's structure will enable it to continue to clear the ever-increasing trading volumes generated by London's growing derivatives industry.

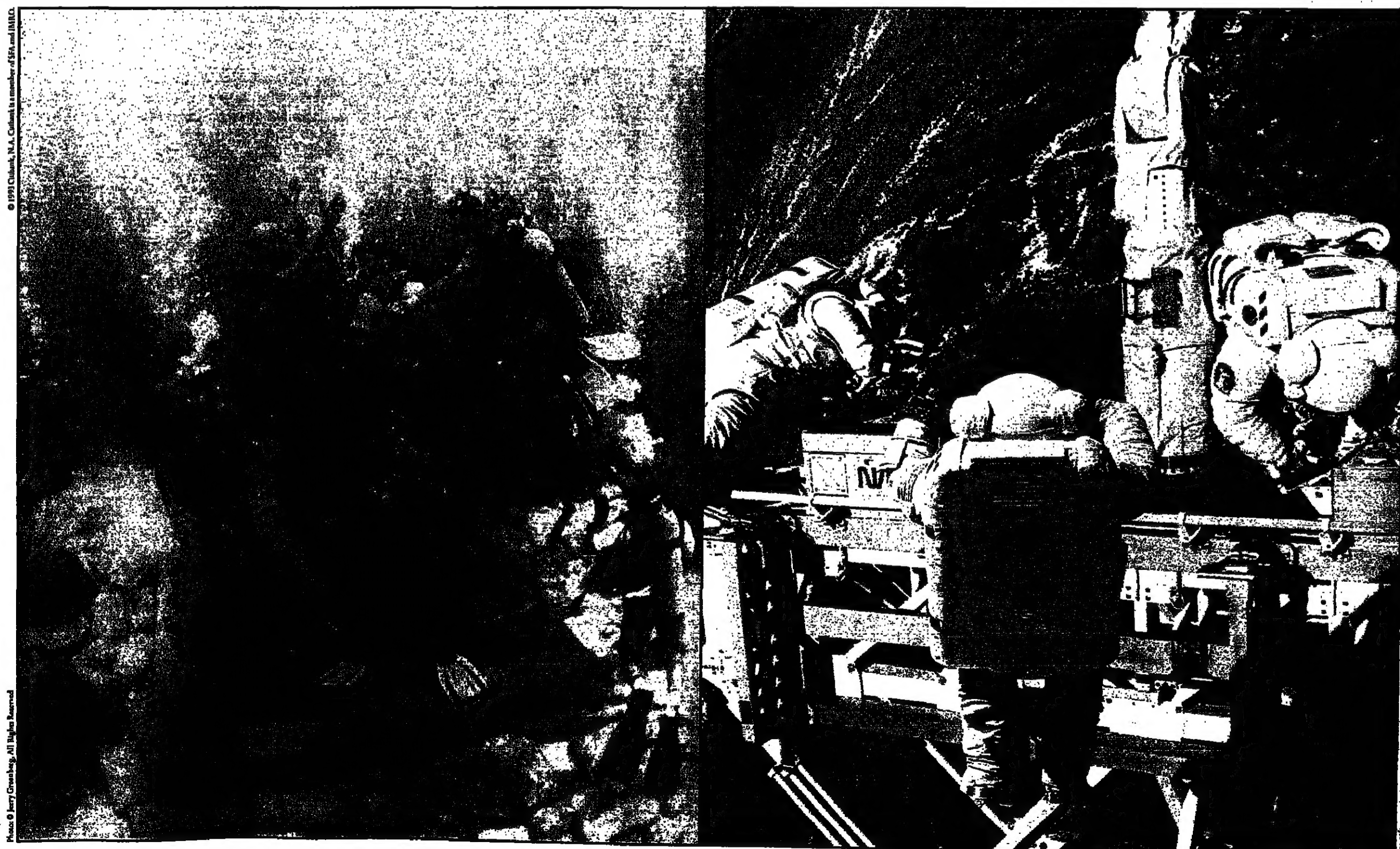
By October 7, LCH had cleared 112.5m contracts, exceeding the total number of trades cleared during the whole of last year. Total volume for this year is expected to reach 185m contracts.

LCH has also taken steps to ensure that it can continue to provide an uninterrupted clearing service for the exchanges if its systems fail or if its building is out of action.

All its computers are now located in south London and there is a back-up system in west London where it also has office space.

"LCH has a triangulated provision of service," says Mr Hardy.

Antonia Sharpe



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